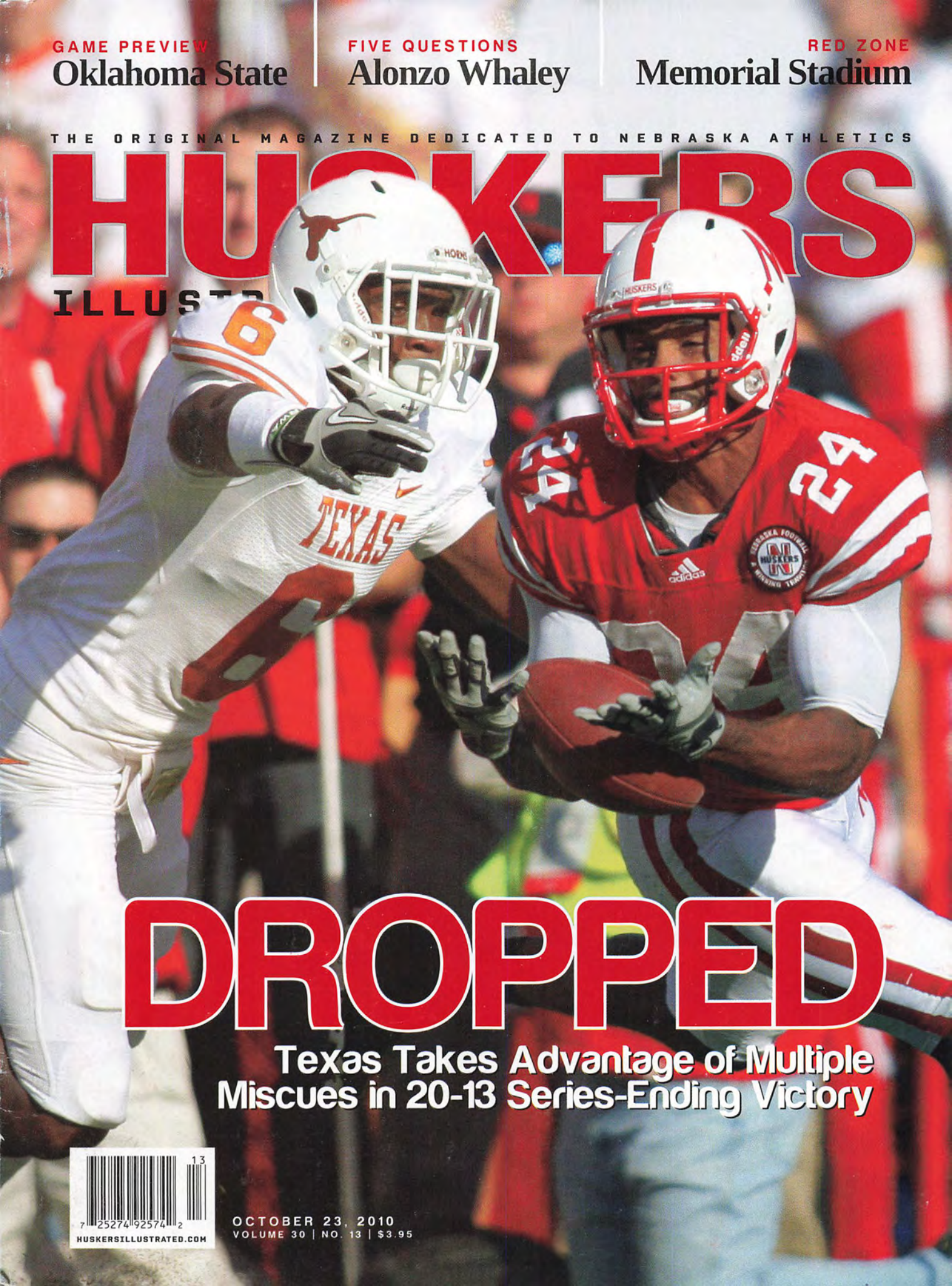
GAME PREVIEW
Oklahoma State

FIVE QUESTIONS
Alonzo Whaley

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NEXT ISSUE
Volume 30, Issue 14, the Oklahoma State recap and Missorui preview, will be mailed Monday, Oct. 25. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.



HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

ON THE COVER
Niles Paul drops a pass in Saturday's 30-13 loss against Texas. The Huskers dropped three passes that would have likely scored touchdowns. With the loss, the Huskers fell to 1-9 in their last 10 meetings against the Longhorns.

Photo by Aaron Babcock

From the Editor

BY AARON BABCOCK
twitter.com/aaron_babcock

NOT SO FAST

Would the real Cornhuskers please step forward?



EVERYBODY WAS LAUGHING at Texas over the past two weeks.

After a home loss to UCLA and a loss to Oklahoma, the Longhorns were in danger of losing three consecutive games for the first time under head coach Mack Brown.

The "experts" around the country predicted a decisive Husker victory. The odds-makers in Vegas tabbed the Huskers as 10-point favorites.

Some fans were actually wondering if the Huskers should run up the score on the Longhorns.

So obviously the Longhorns were dead, right?

Well, somebody forgot to tell Texas.

Evidently everyone forgot overnight that this was Texas – a team that played in the national title game a year ago. This is the same program that consistently recruits the nation's top talent. But yet somehow a number of people were chalking this up as an automatic victory.

Judging from Nebraska's performance on the field Saturday, it seems as if the players thought they could just show up and win.

The Cornhuskers were beat in nearly every phase of the game, including on the offensive and defensive line. Throw in the fact that the Huskers gave away three touchdowns thanks to dropped passes, and this game was much uglier than the 20-13 score indicated.

Nebraska was never a factor until the late heroics of Eric Hagg's school-record 95-yard punt return.

Nebraska is now half way through its regular-season schedule and by my count has turned in just two complete games, both coming on the road at Washington and Kansas State. Nebraska has had two games where it looked awful (South Dakota State and Texas) and two games where only the offense or defense performed well.

So the question begs to be asked, "which team is the real Nebraska?"

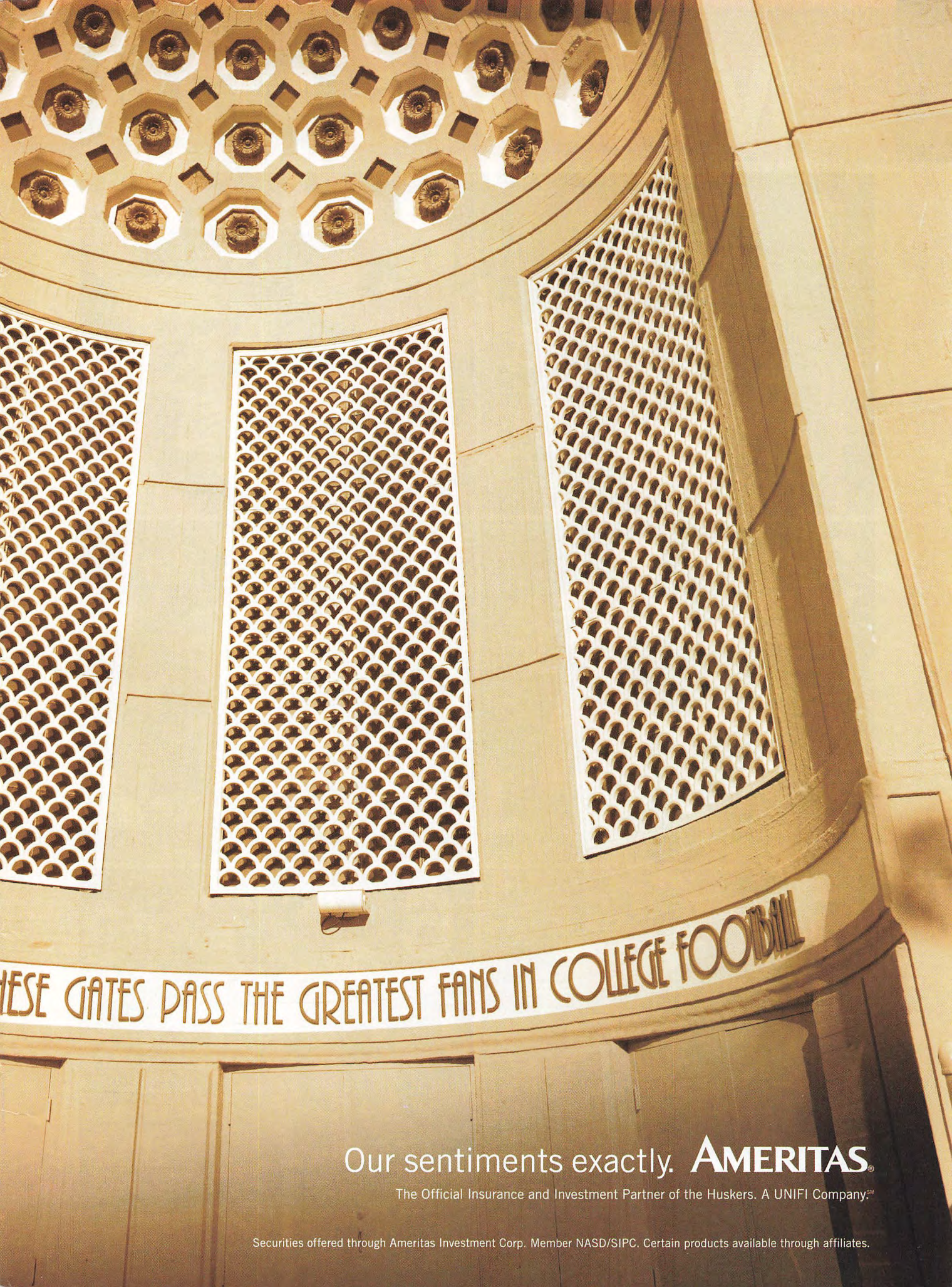
The Huskers can answer that question in the next two games – at Oklahoma State and home against Missouri. While they might be favored in both games, they've been far too inconsistent to take anything for granted.

The loss to Texas was a fitting end to a series Husker fans would love to forget. History will not show the true heart-break in the series, or the contempt Husker fans held for Texas. It will simply show the Huskers were 1-9 in the final 10 meetings.

In the end, Texas had the last laugh. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.

AD 320

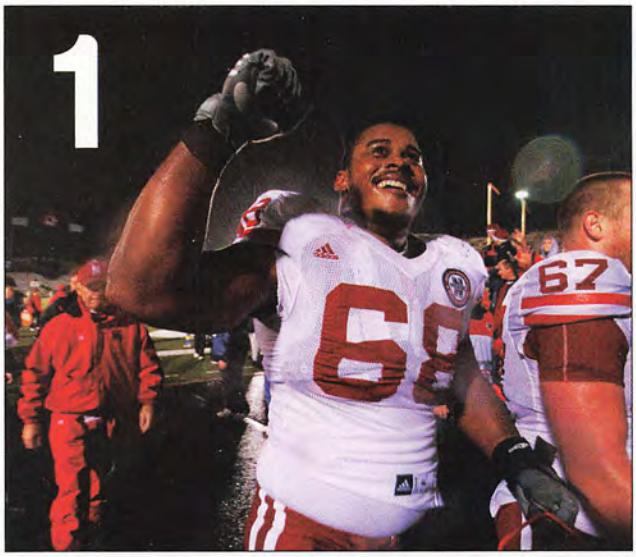


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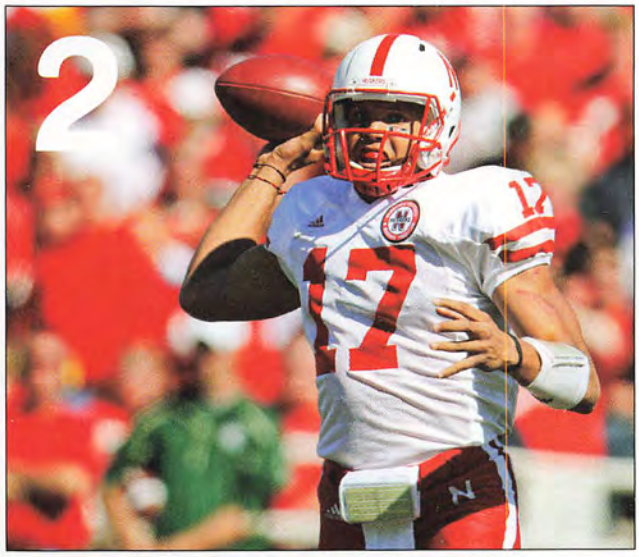










PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK & SCOTT BRUHN

How about seven straight?

The Cornhuskers will be looking for a seventh consecutive road victory under coach Bo Pelini when they travel to Stillwater, Okla. They haven't lost a road game since falling to Virginia Tech 16-15 at Blacksburg in mid-September a year ago.

The Big 12 Championship in Arlington, Texas, was considered a neutral site, of course.

ROAD-TESTED UNDER BO	
(2008)	
at Texas Tech	L, 31-37 (OT)
at Iowa State	W, 35-7
at Oklahoma	W, 28-62
at Kansas State	W, 56-28
(2009)	
at Virginia Tech	L, 15-16
at Missouri	W, 27-1
at Baylor	W, 20-10
at Kansas	W, 31-17
at Colorado	W, 28-20
(2010)	
at Washington	W, 56-21
at Kansas State	W, 48-13

"I think our guys approach it the right way," Pelini said of playing on the road. "Sometimes, I think you have fewer distractions when you're on the road. Obviously, we like to play at home, but when you go on the road, you just focus on one thing and that's playing football.

"You're not as much worried about tickets and people coming into town and those things that go along with playing at home. I just think our guys have a good approach to it. They have been pretty mature about handling all the elements that you have to deal with on the road."

Nebraska has won eight-of-11 road games during Pelini's tenure as coach.

"I think our guys focus well on the road," said defensive coordinator Carl Pelini. "We try to keep their schedule exactly the same as it is at home. We don't dwell on it at all. We kind of prepare the same way we prepare for the home games. We don't talk a lot about it.

"That old saying, if you make it a big deal, it becomes a big deal. If you treat it like it isn't a big deal, the players don't think much about playing on the road. We have some veteran guys and some good leaders. Hopefully, we can continue some success on the road."

HI'S TOP5

FIFTY YEARS LATER



Nebraska has lost three of its last four games against Oklahoma State. Before a 24-21 loss at Stillwater in 2002, however, the Huskers had won 24 games in a row and had a 36-game unbeaten streak in the series, which began in 1960. Here are five in the series to remember:

1 **NEBRASKA 63, OKLAHOMA STATE 42**
(Lincoln) Oct. 15, 1988; Ken Clark (pictured) out-rushes Barry Sanders, Huskers lead 35-0 at first quarter's end.

2 **NEBRASKA 21, OKLAHOMA STATE 17**
(Stillwater) Nov. 13, 1965; Bill Johnson tackles Walt Garrison at the 5-yard line on the final play (see Games Remembered).

3 **NEBRASKA 34, OKLAHOMA STATE 24**
(Stillwater) Oct. 13, 1985; McCathorn Clayton and Doug DuBose pace upset of No. 5-ranked Cowboys.

4 **NEBRASKA 27, OKLAHOMA STATE 13**
(Stillwater) Oct. 7, 1993; Victory No. 200 for Tom Osborne.

5 **NEBRASKA 24, OKLAHOMA STATE 17**
(Kansas City) Oct. 3, 1998; Huskers need Joe Walker's 73-yard punt return and a goal-line stand to win at Arrowhead Stadium.

LIKE SCORING, SORT OF

If he can make a block that helps produce a touchdown, as he did in the Washington game, "I feel like I've scored as well," junior wide receiver Brandon Kinnie said.

Receivers coach Ted Gilmore encourages his players to take pride in their blocking. "He always tells us we're the difference-makers in the second level. The receiving corps has bought into that, and we believe that. I'll be the first down there every time, jumping with them just like I scored."



BRANDON KINNIE

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK





USER-FRIENDLY OFFENSE

Some coaches might be comfortable with dual quarterbacks. But Shawn Watson isn't among them. "I've watched people try to run a system where they have a runner and have a passer. I think that's a bad deal. So we've not trained these kids or raised these guys that way," he said. "We are user friendly, man. We do both. And you have to do both at a high level in order to get in the mix."

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ALFONZO DENNARD (L) AND DEJON GOMES

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Credit Sanders

Secondary coach Marvin Sanders has had a significant effect of senior safety Rickey Thenarse's success this season, and not just by what he's taught Thenarse about football.

"When I first got in here our relationship wasn't beyond football," said Thenarse. "I'm like a personal guy, like to keep my business to myself, don't like to open up to other people. But I just thought it would be good if I go in and meet with Coach Sanders once a week and just sit down and talk about life, talk about my personal problems, sit down and watch film, just do an evaluation every week."

Thenarse acknowledges he wouldn't be the player he is without Sanders' support.

"The coaches, they just know football," he said. "If your life's not right off the field, there's no way it can be good on the field. So I talked (to Sanders) about some of my off-the-field issues and he just kind of pointed me in the right direction. He told me some of his experiences and how to handle certain situations. It shows on the field."

Trusting Sanders wasn't easy at first. But now "I believe everything he's saying," Thenarse said. "I just opened up and I did that. He's a great guy, and he's a good coach. I just saw a lot of what he did with Matty (O'Hanlon) and Larry (Asante). I just saw it."

Initially, O'Hanlon and Asante "took heed of what Coach was saying. And I didn't," said Thenarse.

MORE THAN A MAGAZINE: The Huskers Illustrated Radio Show, hosted by Chris Schmidt, has expanded to a two-hour format every Saturday morning, 52 weeks a year. The show can be heard live on ESPN 1620 in Omaha or on www.1620thezone.com. Archives of the shows are available on iTunes, by searching for Huskers Illustrated. Tune in every Saturday at 7 a.m. (Central) for the only radio show dedicated to 100 percent coverage of the Huskers.

SIDELINES

FOR THE LAST TIME

Next up, Stillwater, Okla., the last time the Cornhuskers will travel there for a Big 12 game, and maybe the last time ever. But the coaches won't use that for motivation, according to defensive coordinator Carl Pelini. "It gets talked about probably in the media 20 times more than it ever gets (talked about) here," he said before the first conference road trip to Kansas State.

"I don't know if we've ever mentioned it to our guys, or (if) it's ever been a topic of conversation that this is our last year in the Big 12. We try to focus on the next opponent and just leave it at that."

For Cornhusker seniors, the move to the Big Ten doesn't mean anything, anyway.

"I don't think we care too much," senior wide receiver Niles Paul said. "We just want to play football. We're out here just focusing on the process, taking it game by game."




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PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Cost of Doing Business

Nebraska paid South Dakota State $375,000 to play in Lincoln. Breaking the contract with the Jackrabbits would have cost even more, about $500,000. It's a matter of economics. Nebraska has to schedule a minimum of seven home games each season for revenue reasons, and sometimes Football Championship Subdivision opponents such as South Dakota State University are the only option.

More likely, the Huskers have to schedule non-BCS opponents for non-conference games. They paid Idaho $800,000 to play in Lincoln, without having to make a trip to Moscow in return.

Though he'll never say never to scheduling future games against FCS schools, Bo Pelini would prefer not to. And Jeff Jamrog, director of football operations, shares that opinion. They also would prefer not to pay a premium to bring non-BCS schools to Lincoln. "We didn't like kind of what was going on in terms of buying games," Athletic Director Tom Osborne said.

"So we've gone for two-for-one now."

Nebraska will play one road game in return for two games in Lincoln.

The Huskers have three such non-conference series scheduled, with Fresno State, Southern Mississippi and Wyoming. So their non-conference schedule is "going to be much more attractive going forward," said Osborne. "I think the fans will certainly feel that they get their money's worth."

SIDELINES

WHERE'S WITT?

Remember Patrick Witt? The former Cornhusker is the starting quarterback at Yale. Through four games, three of them victories, he had completed 102-of-170 passes for 1,108 yards and six touchdowns, with five interceptions. Witt is a junior.

NIGHTHAWK HUSKERS

Former Cornhuskers Ahman Green and Jay Moore are continuing professional careers, playing for the first-year Omaha Nighthawks in the United Football League. The Nighthawks drew sellout crowds to Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium for the first two games in franchise history.

Former Husker Cory Ross plays for the leagues' Sacramento team. Omaha's quarterback is 40-year-old NFL veteran Jeff Garcia. Maurice Clarett also plays for the Nighthawks.





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2010 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, Sept. 4	**Western Kentucky**	**Memorial Stadium**	**6:00 pm**
Sat, Sept. 11	**Idaho**	**Memorial Stadium**	**11:30 am**
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Sept. 25	**South Dakota State**	**Memorial Stadium**	**6:00 pm**
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	6:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 16	**Texas**	**Memorial Stadium**	**2:30 pm**
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	2:30 or 7pm
Sat, Oct. 30	**Missouri**	**Memorial Stadium**	**TBA**
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 13	**Kansas**	**Memorial Stadium**	**TBA**
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	TBA
Fri, Nov. 26	**Colorado**	**Memorial Stadium**	**2:30 pm**

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TAKE IT FROM TOM ABOUT TAYLOR

During his news conference to announce the proposed $55.5 million expansion of Memorial Stadium, on the day after the Kansas State game, Athletic Director Tom Osborne was asked if Taylor Martinez reminded him of any Husker quarterbacks in the past.

"Every one's a little different, you know," Osborne said. "I think Taylor and (Eric) Crouch are similar in speed. But Taylor hits full-speed probably faster than anybody I've ever seen. I think in three steps, he's going full-speed. And the thing that's kind of amazing is that he clears that line of scrimmage and guys who would normally be tackled, he's one step past that point."

Martinez is "pretty unique," said Osborne. "But every game's a new experiment, and every team's going to try to stop him in different ways. It's not always going to be quite like it was last night."

EAGER STUDENT

Safety DeJon Gomes and secondary coach Marvin Sanders have a competition of sorts, seeing which one can get to Sanders' office earliest to study video of opponents.

"I don't know if it's a competition because I pretty much win it every time," Gomes said.

Gomes' preparation and his versatility have made him a key contributor to Nebraska's defense. "He's a very mature guy, very focused on what he wants to do," coach Bo Pelini said of the senior transfer from San Francisco City College. "He's a team-oriented guy. He's somebody that has high expectations for himself and has real 'want-to' to get better.

"He's a tremendous guy to have in the program. I really like him, not only as a football player but as a leader. When you come in like he did, a year and a half ago, we didn't know that much about him. He was real quiet at first, but then he just kind of grew into what he became, and his confidence started growing, and he became that much more effective as a player. You see him do it day after day. You see him play that way in practice. He has a great approach to the game."

RIVALRY RENEWED, MAYBE

The Nebraska-Oklahoma rivalry was diminished with the formation of the Big 12 Conference. The schools played football twice every four years. Next season it will end when Nebraska moves to the Big Ten. But the Sooners are interested in getting together for old times' sake. Husker Athletic Director Tom Osborne recently told the Lincoln Journal Star that Oklahoma Athletic Director Joe Castiglione had proposed the schools play in 2020 and 2021, the 50th anniversary of the "Game of the Century." Nebraska would play at Norman in 2020, and the Sooners would come to Lincoln in 2021.

"I just told him we'd have some interest, but we really needed to go through a year or two in the Big Ten and see how that was going to shake out," Osborne told the Journal Star.



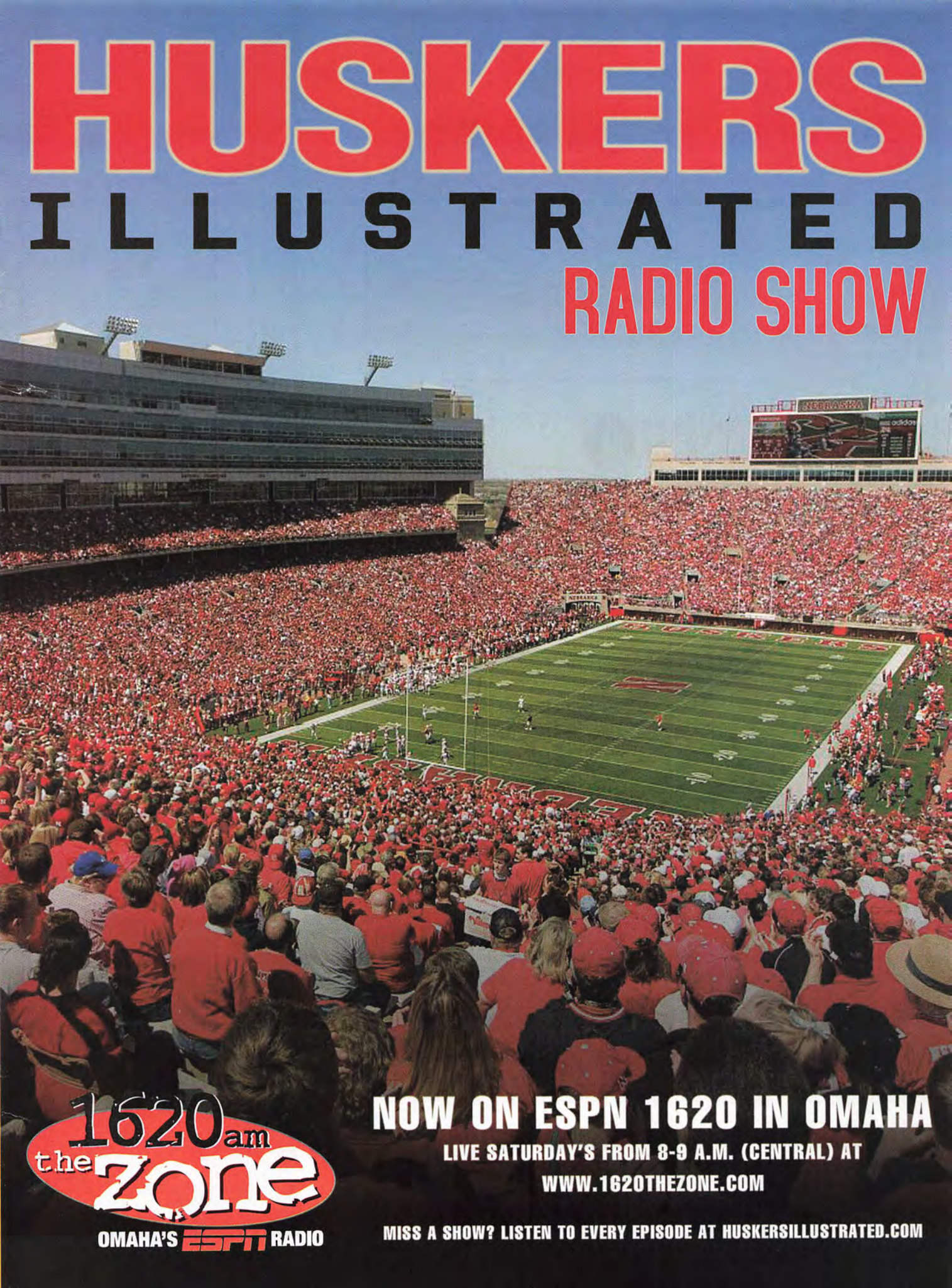
NEARLY THE BEST

TAYLOR MARTINEZ rushed for 241 yards against Kansas State, the second-most in Cornhusker history by a freshman:

1. Calvin Jones, at Kansas, 1991 27-294
2. **MARTINEZ, AT KANSAS STATE, 2010 15-241**
3. Ahman Green, Washington State, 1995 13-176
4. Green, Iowa State, 1995 12-176
5. DeAngelo Evans, at Kansas State, 1996 21-168

Martinez, who ran for four touchdowns and passed for another in the 48-13 victory, was named Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week, while junior linebacker Lavonte David was named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week. David made 16 tackles against the Wildcats.

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HOMETOWN HEROES



Fairbury



JIM MCCORD never felt pressure to represent his hometown of Fairbury. Quite the contrary, in fact. Folks there were supportive. When Nebraska made bowl trips, for example, he received telegrams "signed by all the businesses," wishing him well, McCord said recently, recalling his Cornhusker career.

He made two bowl trips, Orange and Sugar, both for games against Alabama.

Nebraska didn't accept a bowl bid his senior season, even though it led the nation in total defense. The Huskers allowed "67 and a fraction" rushing yards per game, said McCord, an all-conference tackle whose pride in that statistic is reflected in the accuracy of his memory. The average was 67.5.

McCord was offered a scholarship even though he missed his junior year at Fairbury High recovering from a broken leg, suffered in the wreck of a farm truck. He was Nebraska's second scholarship recruit from Fairbury in as many years, following Kaye Carstens, who became an All-Big Eight cornerback.

McCord began as a defensive tackle but was moved to the offensive line midway through his sophomore year. He "wasn't too tickled" about the move, he said. But he did what he was told.

That spring he was moved back to defensive tackle, where he started for two seasons.

Coach Bob Devaney had an Irishman's temper, McCord said, but "he didn't hold a grudge. He treated the guys who played for him extremely well. I had a lot of fun, really."

McCord was among the early Blackshirts, receiving one as a junior when he won the starting job over senior Dick Czap, a two-year starter. The original Blackshirts were black half-jerseys pulled over the player's regular practice jersey. "If you were a starter, you got one," said McCord.

And "if you screwed up," you lost it.

FAIRBURY, NE

County: Jefferson

Population: 3,663 (2009)

Distance from Lincoln: 53 miles

DID YOU KNOW?

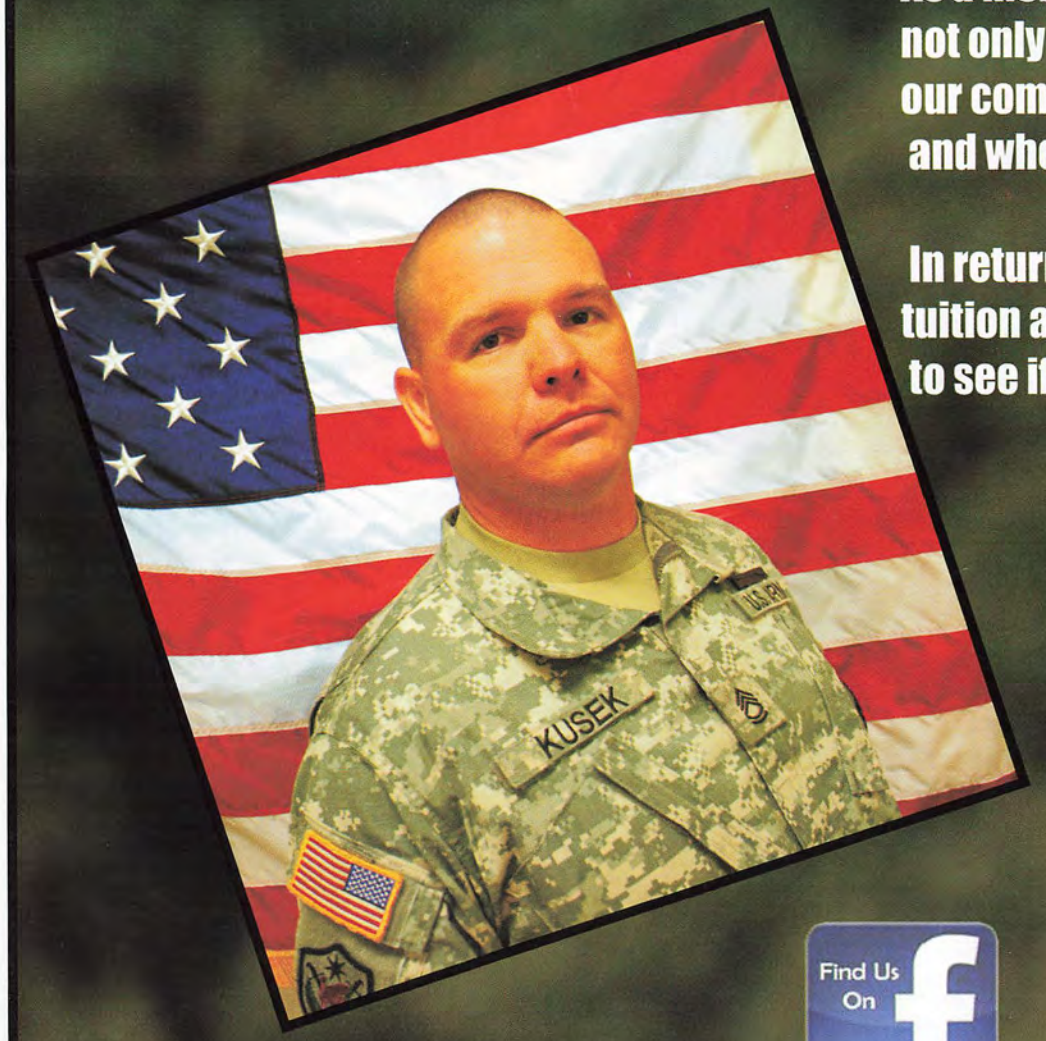
- Rock Creek Station was located just southeast of Fairbury, on the Oregon Trail. Wild Bill Hickock's legend as a gunslinger began there after he shot a man in a dispute over money.
- The Campbell Bros. Circus made Fairbury its winter home from 1885 to 1913.
- Fairbury's downtown historic district was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.
- Fairbury got its name from Fairbury, Ill., home to Woodford G. McDowell, who, along with James B. Mattingly, donated 80 acres of land for the Nebraska town, established in 1869.

NU FOOTBALL LETTERMEN

*Kaye Carstens, CB (1964-65-66)
Matt Grummert, RE (1999-2000)
*Jim McCord, DT (1965-66-67)
Forrest McPherson, C (1930-31)
*Fred Preston, E (1939-40-41)
Douglas Thomas, HB (1956-57)
*[*First-team all-conference]*

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Michigan Wolverines

Huskers will share division with winningest program in college football history | TERRY DOUGLASS









DESPITE STRUGGLING in recent seasons, Michigan can still make the claim as the top program in college football history in all-time victories, highest winning percentage and most winning seasons.

The Wolverines, whose program was established in 1879, have won or shared 42 conference championships, an NCAA record. Since the inception of the Associated Press media poll in 1936, Michigan has finished in the top 10 a record 37 times.

In addition, the Wolverines claim 11 national titles -- 10 of them coming between 1901 and 1948 -- and have the most undefeated seasons of any team currently competing at the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision level with 23. Michigan also has 77 All-Americans, three Heisman Trophy winners and owns the record for the largest crowd to ever attend an NCAA football game (113,090) on Sept. 4, 2010.

Nebraska and Michigan are linked historically as they shared the 1997 national championship with the Cornhuskers ending No. 1 in the coaches' poll and the Wolverines finishing on top in the AP rankings.

Michigan leads Nebraska 3-2-1 in the all-time series. The two schools last met in the 2005 Alamo Bowl with the Huskers rallying for a 32-28 victory.

DON'T MISS

The University of Michigan is located in Ann Arbor, Mich., which is a 745-mile drive from Lincoln. The closest major airport is in Detroit, which is 44 miles away.

The Wolverines play their home games in Michigan Stadium, which is also known as "The Big House." The 109,901-seat facility, which boasts the largest official capacity in the country, features a FieldTurf playing surface.

Michigan Stadium's first-ever night game will take place on Sept. 10, 2011, when the Wolverines host Notre Dame.

Ann Arbor features several cultural attractions and events, many of them sponsored by the University of Michigan. They include museums dedicated to art, archaeology and natural history and sciences.



HEAD COACH

Resume: *Rich Rodriguez is in season three as Michigan's coach, posting a 3-9 record in his first season in 2008 and a 5-7 mark last year. Rodriguez came to the Wolverines from West Virginia where he was twice named the Big East coach of the year.*

NAMES TO KNOW

BO SCHEMBECHLER: (left) Amassed a 194-48-5 record and won 13 Big Ten Conference titles in 21 seasons as Michigan's head coach from 1969-89, but never won a national championship. He had an overall career mark of 234-65-8.

TOM HARMON: Selected as the 1940 Heisman Trophy winner, Harmon is considered by some to be the greatest player in Michigan football history. He is also the father of actor and former UCLA quarterback Mark Harmon.

DESMOND HOWARD: The 1991 Heisman Trophy winner by the largest margin in history at the time, Howard works for ESPN as a college football analyst. He set or tied five NCAA records during his college career.

CHARLES WOODSON: (middle) The only player to win the Heisman as primarily a defensive player, Woodson starred as both a cornerback and kick return specialist to help Michigan capture a share of the 1997 national championship.

FIELDING H. YOST: (right) The coach at Nebraska in 1898, Yost compiled a 197-35-12 record during his 25 season at Michigan from 1901-23 and 1925-26. He guided the Wolverines to six national championships and 10 Big Ten titles.



STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Blocking helps Martinez make it look easy

RUNNING THE football looks so easy with Taylor Martinez at the controls.

Beyond his extreme quickness, the redshirted freshman quarterback seems to be able to reach top speed within his first few steps. So if you're a defensive back and take a wrong angle towards his path, you've missed him.

That noted, Martinez would not be bursting on the national scene like he is if not for some impressive trench work by guys who go unrecognized outside of die-hard Husker circles.

Here's a couple of examples from NU's 48-13 win at Kansas State that broke the Wildcats' backs.

Third snap of the second half: Nebraska calls a simple quarterback draw needing to gain 10 yards. Left guard Keith Williams heads for cornerback Thomas Ferguson and is 10 yards past the line of scrimmage when he pushes Ferguson aside. Right guard Ricky Henry and running back Roy Helu, Jr. pinpoint free safety Emmanuel Lamur and Henry hits the target squarely.

This leaves Martinez with a 4-yard gap to split, and the folks in Bill Snyder Family Stadium see him flash through on his way to an 80-yard touchdown. On the play, center Mike Caputo and tackles Jeremiah Sirles and D.J. Jones also win their battles.

Next offensive play for the Huskers: Helu breaks off the right side for a career-long 68-yard touchdown. On that one, Henry and Jones paved the easy trail.

"It's about the swagger we have in the offensive line," Williams said later. "We don't take (crap) from nobody."

By the time they were finished with the K-State defense, the Huskers had rolled up 451 rushing yards, becoming the first team to get 400 against the Wildcats in 21 years.

Martinez finished with an NU quarterback single-game record 241 rushing, and with the 118 he threw for, Nebraska averaged an all-time best 11.3 yards per snap.

The impressive ground assault left the Huskers with a nation-best 7.7 per-carry average. In 2009, that number was a modest 4.0.

"You have to remember last year we didn't have (Brent) Qvale (at right guard), didn't have Sirles, didn't have (Cole) Pensick (at center)," said offensive coordinator Shaw Watson. "All the kids that go to practice every day and make D.J. Jones better, that make Keith Williams better, that make Caputo better, all that competition, we didn't have it last year.

"That's why all the criticism, that's why I got mad, because no one really understood what we were going through. That depth creates competition. If you're a starter, you better come to work because you've got a good one behind you."

That must be carrying over to another group of Huskers, too, because against Kansas State Watson said the downfield blocking of Niles Paul, Brandon Kinnie and Mike McNeill was as solid as he's seen by a set of receivers in his three decades in coaching.

You think those guys have inspired Martinez?

"Pretty much everything we ran was clicking pretty well," he said after the Huskers improved to 5-0.

This was Martinez looking beyond himself -- a tip of the cap to a unit that had taken plenty of hits after a lackluster performance against South Dakota State

"We stunk it up. We knew we did," Watson said of that game. "It was really insulting. Because the standard is a lot higher."

Especially when you've got the options currently available to the Huskers.

"I think it's pretty obvious we're totally different," Watson said of the capability of Nebraska's 2010 offense. "It would be Taylor and what he has brought to our offense, as well as you have to put the offensive line in there. We're a healthy 11 guys, instead of six or seven like we were -- our tight ends, obviously, being healthy, and our backs. Because of that we're totally different in terms of our scheme." N

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MADISONVILLE, TEXAS

FIVEQUESTIONS

Alonzo Whaley

Texas-Native Talks About Longhorn Brother

ALONZO WHALEY TRIED TO GET HIS YOUNGER BROTHER TO FOLLOW HIM TO NEBRASKA. Instead, Chris Whaley decided to stay close to home. He's a Texas Longhorn.

"I thought we had him for a little while, but it didn't work out," said Alonzo, a sophomore linebacker. "I definitely tried to get him here a couple of times."

Whaley was dreaming of the possibility of tackling his younger brother in the Nebraska-Texas game.

Chris Whaley is a converted H-back, but is only a redshirted freshman and doesn't see much playing time. With Nebraska's move to the Big Ten next season, the game against Texas in Lincoln may have been Whaley's only chance to fulfill his fantasy.

"We're two different types of guys, but we get along well," Alonzo said. "We never really fought a lot. We're close. We get along well. We always played sports, being that close together as far as age."

The Whaleys are from Madisonville, Texas, and although they're a year apart in school, they were actually born in the same calendar year. Alonzo was born Jan. 4, 1990, and Chris was born Dec. 8 that same year.

"He was only 3 pounds," Alonzo said. "He was born three months early, actually."

Alonzo and Chris talk on the phone every week, if not every day.

"We just talk about the game of football and how you handle yourself in certain situations," Alonzo said.



1 **HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED** Who has better high school football, Florida or Texas?
ALONZO WHALEY Florida or Texas!? What kind of question is that? C'mon, Texas, no doubt, hands down. The competition level. Florida has speed, but it's all about Texas football.

2 **HI** Who's your favorite character on Friday Night Lights?
WHALEY I like the preacher boy. He's quiet but he takes care of his business.

3 **HI** If you're buying a new car, what would you get?
WHALEY Probably some type of SUV, some bigger car. Like a Tahoe. I feel like I'm a nice-sized dude. I don't want to be crowded up in a little car. And sometimes I have friends, so I want to make sure I have enough room for everybody.



4 **HI** If you were in charge of college football, what rule change would you implement?
WHALEY Probably the horse collar, because being on defense, you have to get somebody down, regardless. Sometimes you're at a disadvantage when you want to tackle.

5 **HI** What do you miss most about Texas?
WHALEY The weather, to some degree. But just family, more than anything. I have a daughter. She just turned 1 year Sept. 10. I've seen her about three times this year.


HORNS
21
32
10
1



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

by Terry Douglass

TURNING POINT



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

QUICK START

WITH TEXAS TAKING a two-game losing streak into its road game against top five-ranked Nebraska, a quick start was just what the doctor ordered for the Longhorns.

Texas, which was coming off consecutive losses to UCLA and Oklahoma, jumped out to a 10-0 advantage in the game's first 7 minutes and held on for a 20-13 victory at Memorial Stadium.

"The 10-0 lead gave us all the confidence in the world we needed," Texas coach Mack Brown said. "We started slow against UCLA and started awful against Oklahoma.

"We felt like that start gave us the confidence to win this game, and they were all into it on the sideline."

Texas quarterback Garrett Gilbert, who entered the game with just 14 net yards rushing, broke free on a draw play for 25 yards to the Nebraska 10-yard line, setting up Justin Tucker's 27-yard field goal to give Texas a 3-0 lead after the Longhorns' opening possession.

After Nebraska I-back Roy Helu, Jr. lost a fumble on the Huskers' ensuing possession, Gilbert had a 10-yard run to the NU 9, converting a third-and-8 opportunity. Two plays later, he scored on a 3-yard run to put Texas ahead 10-0 with 8:06 left in the first quarter.

Getting ahead early was particularly important to the Texas sophomore quarterback.

"It helps you to be able to stay with your game plan," Gilbert said. "Playing catch-up, you have to throw the ball a little more.

"We did a great job jumping on them, and our defense gave us a turnover in the first quarter, and we were able to punch it in. The offense did a great job of starting fast."

Texas scoring first marked the first time this season Nebraska had trailed. Certainly, the early 10-0 deficit changed the complexion of the game for the Huskers, who were entertaining national championship hopes and aiming to halt a five-game losing streak against the Longhorns.

"I thought there was more pressure on them today than us and that's unusual," Brown said.

Said Nebraska guard Keith Williams: "Everybody is mad when you're down, but we just tried to stay focused and kept trying to go at it." **N**

by Terry Douglass



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

MISSING MAGIC

After breaking Nebraska's single-game position record for rushing yards with 241 against Kansas State, quarterback Taylor Martinez was limited to 21 yards rushing on 14 carries by Texas. The redshirt freshman was also just 4-of-12 passing for 63 yards and was benched in favor of senior Zac Lee with 6:14 left in the third quarter.

"We've just got to finish plays for (Taylor) and help him out," Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson said. "He'll learn from it and grow from it. He's our starting quarterback and he'll work his way through it." Watson said he made the decision to replace Martinez with Lee because "I felt his frustration out there." Martinez declined requests for postgame media interviews.

"There were a lot of things happening to him that he couldn't help," Watson said of Martinez. "He got into a situation where it started snowballing on him a little bit and we went with Zac because he had the experience and the maturity to kind of handle it."

RECORD RETURN

In a game where big plays were sparse for Nebraska, Eric Hagg gave the Cornhuskers a chance in their 20-13 loss to Texas.

Leading 20-6 with 3:24 to go, the Longhorns lined up for an apparent field-goal attempt from 50 yards. However, Texas went with a direct snap back to kicker Justin Tucker who punted 28 yards and appeared to pin Nebraska at its own 5-yard line.

Hagg had other ideas. The 6-foot-2, 210-pound senior defensive back from Peoria, Ariz., picked up the football, raced to the sideline and then weaved through several would-be Longhorn tacklers for a 95-yard touchdown, helping to cut Nebraska's deficit to seven points with 3:02 remaining.

"Coach (Bo) Pelini had told me to watch the fake field goal and if they punted it, do what I could to return it, so I just picked it up and started running," Hagg said. "I was just thankful for the play.

"After that, the crowd definitely kicked back in."

Hagg's 95-yarder was the longest punt return in school history, bettering the old record of 94 yards set by Bobby Newcombe in 2000 against Missouri. It was also Hagg's first collegiate punt return.

"Hagg is a great athlete and we knew (Texas) was going to attempt something like that, so we were going to keep our

GameNotes

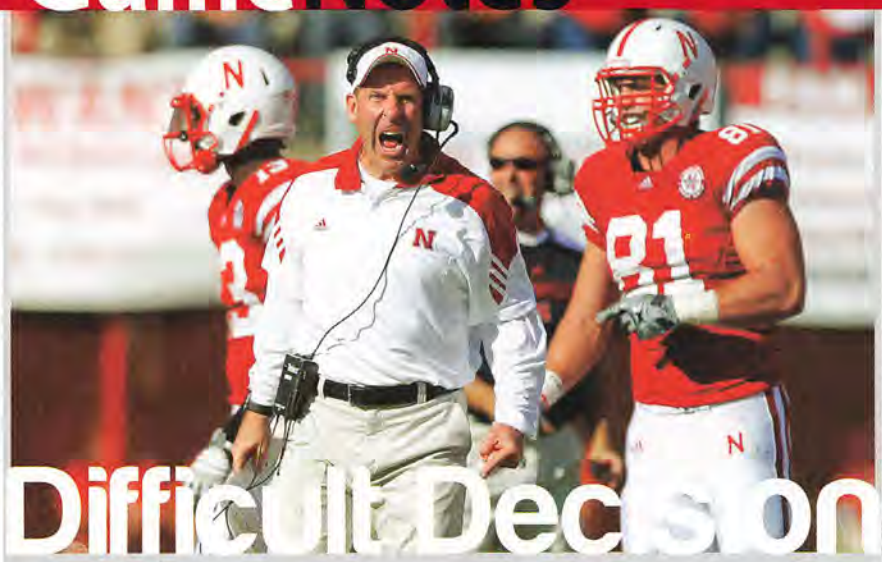


PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Difficult Decision

After Eric Hagg's 95-yard punt return cut Nebraska's deficit to seven points with 3:02 to play, Cornhuskers' coach Bo Pelini, who had two timeouts remaining, opted to try an onside kick instead of kicking away.

The decision didn't pan out as Texas recovered the onside kick at Nebraska's 42 and - - thanks in part to Cody Johnson's 24-yard run for a first down - - were able to run out the clock.

"We figured we had to stop them anyway," Pelini said when asked about the decision to try an onside kick. "We figure we'd be aggressive and try to get the ball back with enough time. If they got a first down it meant it was pretty much over anyway, whether we kicked it to them or not.

"We just figured it gave us another opportunity. Does that mean it would have been a little bit longer field? Yeah, we rolled the dice a little bit. I don't know if it was the right decision or not, but I thought it was the right thing to do at the time."

regular defense in and utilize a guy like Hagg back in the back end," Nebraska secondary coach Marvin Sanders said. "He really showed his athletic ability."

GILBERT SURPRISES

To the surprise of some, Texas had success running quarterback Garrett Gilbert on bootleg and draw plays early against Nebraska. The Longhorns' sophomore signal-caller entered the game with 14 net yards rushing on the season, but finished with 11 carries for 71 yards and two TDs.

Nebraska defensive end Cameron Meredith admitted that the Huskers were at least a little surprised to see Gilbert running so much. Gilbert previously had a season-long run of 11 yards in his first five games, but broke loose on a draw play for 25 yards to the Nebraska 10, setting up Tucker's 27-yard field goal to give Texas an early 3-0 lead.

After Nebraska I-back Roy Helu's lost fumble on the Huskers' ensuing possession, Gilbert had a 10-yard run to the NU 9, converting a third-and-8 opportunity. Two plays later, he scored on a 3-yard run to put Texas ahead 10-0 with 8:06 left in the first quarter.

Gilbert said using him in the running game was a key part of Texas' plan.

"(Nebraska is) all about matching guys up and playing man, so you get secondary guys with their back turned to the offense," Gilbert said. "The offensive line did a great job of opening up a couple of creases there early and letting us get inside it."

DISASTROUS DROPS

With Nebraska's offense held to a season-low 202 total yards, several dropped passes loomed large for the Cornhuskers against Texas.

Conservatively speaking, Nebraska's receivers had at least five drops in the contest. None were bigger than a fourth-down pass thrown by Zac Lee over the middle that wide receiver Brandon Kinnie couldn't hang on to that could have given the Huskers a first down and possibly even a touchdown.

"We could have had three touchdowns from my position (players) alone," Nebraska receivers coach Ted Gilmore said. "It maybe could have even been four, but we didn't make the plays. No excuses. We didn't get it done."

Nebraska receiver Niles Paul said dropped passes were definitely a difference-maker in the outcome.

"I can't take anything away from anybody else, but if we make those catches, we win that game," Paul said.

WORTH NOTING

- Nebraska's 1970 national championship team was honored on the field during halftime of the Huskers' game against Texas. More than 50 players and some members of the coaching staff were present.
- Nebraska's three Heisman Trophy winners - - Johnny Rodgers, Mike Rozier and Eric Crouch - - were introduced on the field during the game.
- Nebraska junior linebacker Lavonte David, who entered the game leading the Big 12 Conference and seventh nationally with an average of 12 tackles per game, finished with 10 tackles. Husker sophomore safety P.J. Smith had a career-high 11 tackles.
- The loss to Texas dropped Nebraska to 2-9 at home in October over the past six seasons. The Huskers have lost all three of their October home games the past two years.



ERIC HAGG SCORES ON HIS SCHOOL-RECORD 95-YARD PUNT RETURN. PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

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20 TEXAS

13 NEBRASKA

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Sophomore Rex Burkhead drops a touchdown pass. *Photo by Aaron Babcock.* 2) Alfonzo Dennard breaks up a pass. *Photo by Randy Hampton.* 3) Prince Amukamara and Texas receiver Marquise Goodwin battle for a reception. *Photo by Scott Bruhn.* 4) Niles Paul races down the sideline after a 14-yard reception. It was called back for offensive pass interference. *Photo by Aaron Babcock.*



PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

ZAC LEE

Welcome back Zac Lee. With 6:14 remaining in the third quarter, Zac Lee replaced Taylor Martinez at quarterback. Lee last played in the fourth quarter of the season-opener against Western Kentucky. The Huskers "wanted to find a spark, wanted to settle Taylor down," said coach Bo Pelini.

Though Martinez was struggling, the problem offensively "wasn't just Taylor," Pelini said.

In any case, Lee did give the offense a bit of a spark, directing a 16-play, 83-yard drive to an Alex Henery field goal on his first series. Lee finished with 10 carries for 25 yards and completed 4-of-9 passes for 14 yards. "He played OK," said Pelini. "(I'll) tell you better after I watch the film."

Martinez also played OK, "did some good things," Pelini said.

"Taylor's our starting quarterback right now . . . nothing's really changed."

Asked later about why Lee rather than sophomore Cody Green was first off the bench, Pelini said: "I'm not going to talk about the quarterback position anymore. That's all you guys want to talk about. We do what we have to do to win a football game, and that's how we make the decision.

"Obviously, we didn't make the right decisions."

Husker Report Card

RUSHING

F

From 451 rushing yards against Kansas State to 125 against Texas, little more need be said. The Huskers have to be better than 2.8 yards per carry.

PASSING

F

The receivers shared the blame here, with three dropped passes that could have been touchdowns. "We just didn't show up today," said Niles Paul.

RUSHING DEFENSE

C-

Texas quarterback Garrett Gilbert had a rushing net of 14 yards on 24 carries coming into the game. He more than doubled that in the first quarter and finished with 71 yards on 11 carries.

PASSING DEFENSE

A

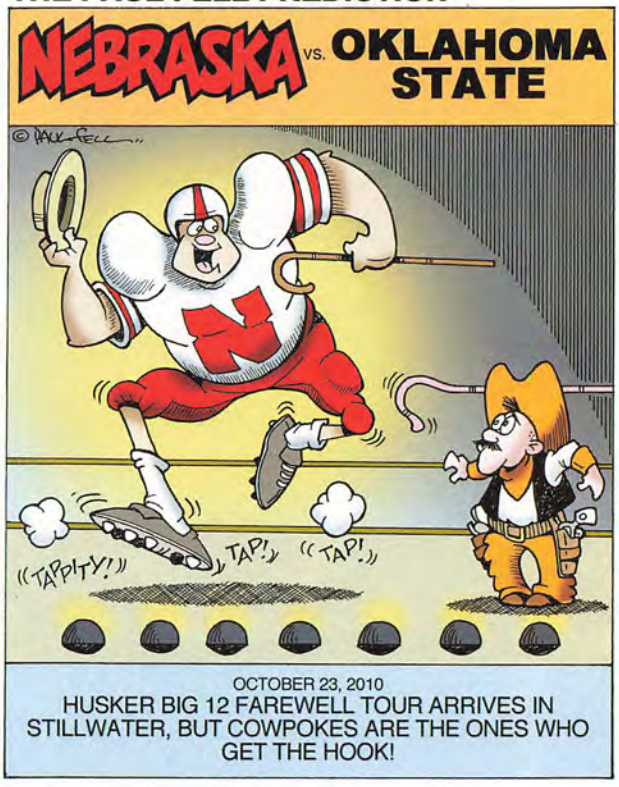
Gilbert completed 4-of-16 passes for 62 yards, 41 of them coming on one critical play.

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS

C+

Eric Hagg made a big play, returning a punt 95 yards for Nebraska's only touchdown. Otherwise, the kicking game was probably a wash.

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION



OCTOBER 23, 2010
HUSKER BIG 12 FAREWELL TOUR ARRIVES IN STILLWATER, BUT COWPOKES ARE THE ONES WHO GET THE HOOK!

QUICK PICKS








(Season, Last Week)	Aaron Babcock (34-14, 5-3)	Mike Babcock (38-10, 5-3)	Terry Douglass (38-10, 3-5)	Kevin Kugler (35-13, 3-5)	Sean Callahan (35-13, 4-4)	Matt Davison (37-11, 3-5)
Nebraska at Oklahoma State	NU 28-27	NU 42-21	OSU 31-27	NU 35-24	NU 27-20	NU 27-17
LSU at Auburn	AUB 35-28	AUB 31-17	AUB 56-48	AUB 24-16	LSU 37-33	AUB 24-12
Wisconsin at Iowa	IOWA 21-17	IOWA 27-25	IOWA 24-17	IOWA 28-21	IOWA 31-27	IOWA 21-13
Oklahoma at Missouri	OU 35-28	OU 35-20	OU 35-13	OU 35-28	OU 41-27	OU 27-17
Texas Tech at Colorado	TT 42-28	CU 38-35	TT 40-25	TT 31-14	CU 34-30	TT 31-21
Kansas State at Baylor	KSU 24-20	BU 28-24	BU 31-24	BU 34-28	BU 38-31	BU 27-21
Iowa State at Texas	UT 35-10	UT 42-10	UT 38-17	UT 49-10	UT 34-3	UT 37-10
Texas A&M at Kansas	A&M 38-7	A&M 35-17	A&M 21-10	A&M 35-7	A&M 28-21	A&M 35-13

GameStats

SUMMARY

SCORING

Oct. 16, 2010
Snyder Stadium • Manhattan, Kan.
Attendance: 51,015

	1	2	3	4	F
TEXAS	10	7	3	0	20
NEBRASKA	0	3	3	7	13

		UT	NU
	First Quarter		
UT	Tucker, Justin 27 yd field goal - 10:13 **Drive:** 8 plays 61 yds 3:15	3	0
UT	Gilbert, Garrett 3 yd run - 8:06 Drive: 5 plays 21 yds 1:52	10	0
	Second Quarter		
NU	Henery, Alex 45 yd field goal - 14:09 Drive: 12 plays 54 yds 4:56	10	3
UT	Gilbert, Garrett 1 yd run - 8:44 Drive: 7 plays 78 yds 2:32	17	3
	Third Quarter		
UT	Tucker, Justin 28 yd field goal - 8:52 Drive: 4 plays 21 yds 1:32	20	3
NU	Henery, Alex 28 yd field goal Drive: 16 plays 83 yds 5:47	20	10
	Fourth Quarter		
NU	Hagg, Eric 95 yd punt return	20	13

TEAM STATS

	UT	NU
Total First Downs	14	13
Rushing	7	7
Passing	3	3
Penalty	4	3
Rushing Attempts	46	44
Yards Gained Rushing	215	147
Yards Lost Rushing	6	22
Net Yards Rushing	209	125
Net Yards Passing	62	77
Passes Attempted	16	21
Passes Completed	4	8
Had Intercepted	0	0
Percent Completion	25.0%	38.1%
Yards per Attempt	3.9	3.7
Yards per Completion	15.5	9.6
Total Offensive Plays	62	65
Total Net Yards	271	202
Avg. Gain Per Play	4.4	3.1
Fumbles: No-Lost	1-0	5-1
Penalties: No-Yards	4-53	10-94
Punts: No-Yards	7-327	7-346
Avg. Per Punt	46.7	49.4
Avg. Net Punt	30.9	39.1
Punt Returns: No-Yards	3-52	3-111
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	1-16	3-49
Interception Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	30:10	29:50
Third-Down Conversions	7-16	5-16
Percentage	43.8%	31.3%
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-0	1-2
Percentage	0.0%	50.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	1-7	0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Helu Jr.	11	43	0	43	3.9	0	7
Burkhead	9	39	4	35	3.9	0	12
Lee	10	25	0	25	2.5	0	6
Martinez	13	39	18	21	1.6	0	14
Paul	1	1	0	1	1.0	0	1
TOTAL	**44**	**147**	**22**	**125**	**2.8**	**0**	**14**

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Martinez	12	4	33.3	0	63	0	23
Lee	9	4	44.4	0	14	0	7
TOTAL	**21**	**8**	**38.1**	**0**	**77**	**0**	**23**

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	6	66	0	23
Burkhead	1	7	0	7
Kinnie	1	4	0	4
TOTAL	**8**	**77**	**0**	**23**

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	2	26	0	18
Kinnie	1	23	0	23
TOTAL	**3**	**49**	**0**	**41**

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Paul	2	16	0	15
Hagg	1	95	1	95
TOTAL	**3**	**111**	**1**	**95**

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	TB	FC	50+	IN20
Henery	7	49.4	60	1	0	3	2

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Henery	2	2	45	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT	TT	TFL	SAC	PD	FF	FR
Gomes	4	7	11	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Smith	3	8	11	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
David	2	8	10	1-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuler	3	5	8	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Allen	2	4	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Meredith	2	3	5	1-1	0-0	0	0	0
Amukamara	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Crick	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thenarse	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hagg	2	0	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Martin	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dennard	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
Mangieri	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Blatchford	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Compton	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Stoddard	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Cassidy	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

TEXAS

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	AVG	TD	LG
Johnson	11	73	0	73	6.6	0	24
Gilbert	11	71	0	71	6.5	2	25
Newton	10	41	0	41	4.1	0	13
Whittaker	11	29	1	28	2.5	0	7
Goodwin	1	1	0	1	1.0	0	1
TEAM	2	0	5	-5	-2.5	0	0
TOTAL	**46**	**215**	**6**	**209**	**4.5**	**2**	**25**

PASSING	ATT	COMP	%	INT	YDS	TD	LG
Gilbert	16	4	25.0	0	62	0	41

RECEIVING	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Newton	2	16	0	11
Whittaker	1	41	0	41
Williams	1	5	0	5
TOTAL	**4**	**62**	**0**	**41**

KICK RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Monroe	1	16	0	16

PUNT RETURNS	NO	YDS	TD	LG
Brown	2	35	0	24
Williams	1	17	0	17
TOTAL	**3**	**52**	**9**	**24**

PUNTING	NO	AVG	LG	TB	FC	50+	IN20
Tucker	4	47.2	67	0	0	1	2
Gold	3	46.0	54	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	**7**	**46.7**	**67**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**3**

FIELD GOALS	MADE	ATT	LG	BLKD
Tucker	2	2	28	0

DEFENSE	UT	AT		TFL	SAC	PD	FF	FR
Williams	4	4	8	1-2	0-0	0	1	0
Hicks	3	5	8	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Acho	5	2	7	1-5	0-0	0	0	0
Scott	3	4	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Robinson	1	5	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Jones	2	3	5	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Vaccaro	3	1	4	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gideon	2	2	4	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Okafor	2	1	3	1-7	1.0-7	0	0	0
Acho	2	1	3	1-2	0-0	1	0	0
Randall	2	0	2	1-4	0-0	0	0	0
Norton	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Earnest	1	1	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Byndom	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Brown	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Brown	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Phillips	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Higgins	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Smith	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Johnson	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McNamara	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Oklahoma State Cowboys

Cowboys feature one of the nation's most-explosive offenses, averaging 52.6 ppg. | JERRY TRICKIE

The explosive Cowboys rank among the top five in the country in passing, scoring and total offense. Three players – WR Justin Blackmon, RB Kendall Hunter and PK Dan Bailey—are among the top 15 nationally in scoring, helping OSU average 52.6 ppg. Defensively, OSU had allowed 29.2 ppg to rank 87th nationally in scoring defense and is 88th in total defense.



Sophomore WR Justin Blackmon has exploded onto the national scene this year, leading the country in both receiving yards (149.6) and scoring (14.4 ppg). After posting 20 catches as a rookie in 2009, he recorded 47 receptions (one-third of the team total) while posting 12 total TDs (11 receiving) through five games this fall.

PHOTO COURTESY OKLAHOMA STATE SPORTS INFORMATION





HEAD COACH

Resume: *Sixth-year head coach Mike Gundy led OSU to a 5-0 start this season as its high-powered offense shot the Cowboys back into the top 25 in early October. He owns a 41-27 career record and is 2-0 against Nebraska, although the Huskers lead the series 36-5-1.*

KNOW YOUR FOE



Brandon Weeden, Jr., QB: Weeden directs the explosive Cowboy offense with 322.0 ypg and 18 passing TDs while ranking 11th nationally in passing efficiency.



Kendall Hunter, Sr., RB: Through five games, Hunter ranked among the national leaders in rushing (140 ypg), scoring (10.8 ppg) and all-purpose yards (164.6 ypg).



Orie Lemon, Sr., LB: Lemon paces OSU with 45 tackles (including 38 solo) and four TFLs while adding 1.5 sacks and two fumble recoveries.

2010 SCHEDULE

9/4	Washington State W, 65-17
9/11	Troy, W, 41-38
9/18	Tulsa, W, 65-28
9/30	Texas A&M, W, 38-35
10/8	at Louisiana, W, 54-28
10/16	at Texas Tech, 2:30 p.m. CT
10/23	Nebraska, TBA
10/30	at Kansas State, TBA
11/6	Baylor, TBA
11/13	at Texas, TBA
11/20	at Kansas, TBA
11/27	Oklahoma, TBA

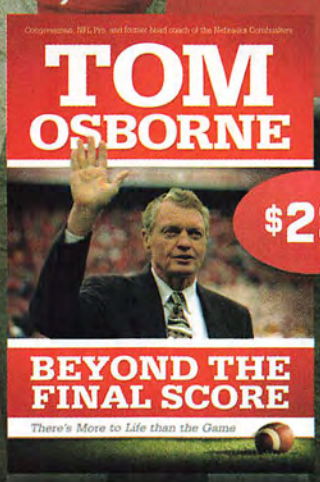
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CATCHING**UPWITH**

Kenny Walker

DEAF ALL-AMERICAN INSPIRED MAN-OF-THE-YEAR SHIELDS

IT WAS A PACKED house at Blue Valley (Kan.) North High School about eight years ago when the Kansas City Chapter of the Nebraska Alumni Association hosted a rally before the Big 12 Conference Basketball Tournament.

A fan asked Neil Smith and Will Shields, two Husker All-Americans who became All-Pros with the Kansas City Chiefs, what their favorite memory was from college.

"Good question," Shields told the fan. "I'm going to have to think about that one."

A few seconds later, Shields smiled and said: "I know what my favorite memory was – when I was a sophomore, and Nebraska was introducing all the seniors on Senior Day. When they got to Kenny Walker, all the fans extended their hands and shook them to give Kenny the applause sign because he couldn't hear. We all agreed it was the loudest silent roar ever, and I will never forget that moment as long as I live."

Shields, who once received the NFL Man of the Year Award at the Super Bowl for his incredible achievements in reaching out to the Kansas City community, was inspired by Walker when he played and is still inspired by him now as he seeks to improve the lives of young male and female athletes in Kansas City.

"I never knew that story about Will, and I am moved to learn about that now," Walker said recently after becoming the defensive line coach for Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

One of 10 Texas natives who became an All-America football player at Nebraska, Walker achieved a career goal when Gallaudet – an NCCA Division III school that is the national leader in higher education for the deaf and hard of hearing – hired him.

"This is an excellent place to coach and make an impact – the type of place where I can grow professionally and as a person," Walker said. "I know some of our players may look up to me as a role model, which is flattering. But I just want them to see that their dreams can come true just like they did for me."

Walker, whose family now lives in Northern Virginia, said making the move from a teacher/coach at the Iowa School for the Deaf to a college job at Gallaudet enables him and his wife to be closer to a daughter and a son.

The former Denver Bronco is now forever motivated by Shields' support.

"I am thankful for that reception I experienced," Walker said. "When I look back on Senior Day, it reminds me of the tough road I had to take to get to that moment. The University of Nebraska helped me so much with my communication skills, and that, in turn, helped me become a better person."

"WHEN I LOOK BACK ON SENIOR DAY, IT REMINDS ME OF THE TOUGH ROAD I HAD TO TAKE TO GET TO THAT MOMENT. THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA HELPED ME SO MUCH WITH MY COMMUNICATION SKILLS, AND THAT, IN TURN, HELPED ME BECOME A BETTER PERSON."

by Randy York

IN THE Red Zone

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



Memorial Stadium to house

Barring the unexpected, Nebraska's 2013 season-opener will attract a record crowd to Memorial Stadium. The Cornhuskers are scheduled to play Wyoming on Aug. 31, and if all goes as planned, stadium seating capacity will be some 5,000 more than it is now – officially 81,067.

Actual capacity, however, is greater than that. Prior to the Texas game, the record attendance was the crowd of 86,304 that watched last season's 55-0 victory against Louisiana Lafayette.

That was Nebraska's 300th consecutive home sellout.

The plan, which was to go before the Board of Regents the day before the Texas game, is to expand the stadium on the east side, adding 5,000 seats, including 2,000 to 2,250 club seats and 2,500 to 2,800 general seats. The club seats will include approximately 400 to 500 seats in some 30 indoor-outdoor suites. Each new seating area will include dedicated restroom and concessions areas.

Cost of the project has been estimated at $55.million, with $40.5 million coming from private donations and $15 million from bond revenues. The new seating is expected to generate $7 million annually, revenue that will be used to pay off the bonds.

The project also includes 40,000 square feet of interior shell space, 20,000 of which will be used for office and laboratory research by the university at large.

Membership in the Big Ten was



5,000 new seats

among the factors that influenced the expansion project, which is expected to be completed by the 2013 football season. "I don't particularly subscribe to the theory that you've got to keep up with the Joneses all the time, but you'd better at least be in the league," Athletic Director Tom Osborne said at a news conference the day after the Kansas State game.

A market survey indicated 5,000 seats could be added without jeopardizing Nebraska's on-going NCAA-record sellout streak. "Our fans have been very good about supporting us," said Osborne. "It doesn't make much difference if you have 110,000 seats if 20,000 of them are empty. So we want to make sure we have a good chance of preserving our sellout streak.

"We're very appreciative of the fan support we have because that's what keeps us afloat."



Memorial Stadium through the Years

1923 – Dedicated on Oct. 20, a scoreless tie with Kansas, seating for 31,000
1964 – South end zone section increases capacity to 48,000, horseshoe
1965 – North end zone center section increases capacity to 53,000
1966 – North end zone wings increase capacity to 65,000, bowl configuration
1972 – South end zone extended to increase capacity to 73,650
1994 – Section 14 remodeled for fans with disabilities, reduces capacity to 72,700
1999 – Improvement and renovation project adds 42 suites, club seating, stadium view lounge, new pressbox increases capacity to 74,056
2000 – Increased club seating reduces capacity to 73,918
2006 – North Stadium Skyline Suites, disabled section, increases capacity to 81,067
*Actual capacity is higher in all instances

Big Ten Stadiums

Michigan Stadium (Michigan)	109,901
Beaver Stadium (Penn State)	107,282
Ohio Stadium (Ohio State)	102,329
Camp Randall Stadium (Wisconsin)	80,321
Spartan Stadium (Michigan State)	75,005
Kinnick Stadium (Iowa)	70,585
Memorial Stadium (Illinois)	62,870
Ross-Ade Stadium (Purdue)	62,500
Memorial Stadium (Indiana)	52,692
Ryan Field (Northwestern)	47,130

Baseball & Softball, too

The athletic department also submitted a proposal to the Board of Regents to build an indoor practice facility for baseball and softball at Haymarket Park. The 22,000-square-foot facility would include pitching and batting cages and would allow a complete infield practice for baseball, according to Osborne. The athletic department's expense would be $4.75 million.

Recruiting Notebook

Huskers host defensive ends

Defensive ends from Chicago, Cincinnati and California schedule to visits to Lincoln | SEAN STEVENS



DeVANTE WILSON

Corona, Calif., defensive end DeVante Wilson (6-5, 235) has offers from around the Pac-10 as well as from Nebraska. He was slated to make his official visit to Lincoln for the Texas game, after already visiting Arizona and says he will also take trips to Oregon and USC before making a decision. Wilson is likely to stay in the west for college, but the atmosphere around the Texas game could make a big impact on him.

Along with Wilson, fellow defensive end targets James Adeyanju (6-2, 250) of Chicago, Ill., Jesse Hayes (6-4, 230) of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Lake Koa-Ka'ai (6-4, 235) of Honolulu, Hawaii, also were slated to be in town for Texas.

Adeyanju may visit Northwestern and Illinois but seems poised to make a decision.

Hayes stated that NU would be his last of three visits after already seeing Oregon and Wisconsin.

Koa-Ka'ai has also seen Oregon and wasn't sure if he'd make another trip after NU.

With the Huskers targeting two or three defensive ends for this class, it's entirely possible that they will be finished with the position before October is half over.

HUSKERS TARGET OHIO TIGHT END

Nebraska has a wealth of young tight ends, but Darien Bryant (6-4, 215) of Pickerington, Ohio, has jumped to the forefront of the target list for 2011. Bryant is scheduled to visit Nebraska Oct. 29 for the Missouri game.

"With them being ranked pretty high, I know it's going to be good," Bryant said. "I don't know what specifically to expect, but I'm sure the fans will be really supportive. I'm just excited to get out there and see what it's all about."

Bryant also has offers from Duke, Kansas and Maryland, but has stated that NU is "probably towards the top of the offers I have."

LOUISIANA TACKLE CHANGES VISIT

Defensive tackle Mickey Johnson (6-1, 310) of Covington, La., had set an official visit to Lincoln for the Missouri game Oct. 29, however with the success his team has had this fall, it appears that the state playoffs will interfere with that date. Johnson will push his visit to December or January and will also visit UCLA.

COMMIT Q&A



RYNE REEVES

At a glance: *Crete (Neb.) offensive lineman Ryne Reeves has been committed to Nebraska since June of 2009. Huskers Illustrated caught up with the standout lineman recruit in this week's commit spotlight.*

SEAN CALLAHAN: How much do you get asked about Nebraska since you've been committed there before your junior season even began?
REEVES: I'd say like right after I committed I'd get it about every day, but lately I don't get asked about it as much.

CALLAHAN: What do you like the best about your future position coach Barney Cotton?
REEVES: I like his demeanor and his attitude towards the offensive line. He's a really intense coach and I like that. He really pushes the guys, so that's good.

CALLAHAN: What excites you the most about moving to the Big Ten next year?
REEVES: I'm just excited to be able to play in stadiums at places like Penn State and Ohio State. That will be really cool. On YouTube my friend showed me Penn State's student section and at Wisconsin when they do the "jump around." I've watched more of that stuff more than anything.

CALLAHAN: What player in the recruiting class excites you the most when you watch his film?
REEVES: I like watching (Ryan) Klachko's highlight tape. It's impressive. He's really explosive coming off the ball and he finishes blocks well.

CALLAHAN: What's the worst thing an opponent has ever said to you to get inside your head during a game?
REEVES: Last year against Grand Island Northwest I kind of got stood up by this kid, but then I pancake-blocked him. After the play he got up and said "big UNL recruit and blah, blah." That would probably be the worst thing and the only thing I can think of.

2011 Husker Commit List

- ★★ **AARYN BOUZOS**, DB, 5-11, 185, La Mirada, Calif. (La Mirada)
- ★★★ **DANIEL DAVIE**, DB, 6-0, 181, Beatrice, Neb.
- ★★★★ **RYAN KLACHKO**, OL, 6-4, 287, Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
- ★★★★ **TEVIN MITCHEL**, DB, 6-0, 175, Mansfield, Texas (Legacy)
- ★★★★ **TYLER MOORE**, OL, 6-6, 290, Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
- ★★★★ **RYNE REEVES**, OL, 6-3, 300, Crete, Neb. (Crete)
- ★★ **NIKLAS SADE**, K, 6-3, 190, Raleigh, NC (Wakefield)
- ★★★ **DAVID SANTOS**, LB, 6-0, 193, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
- NR **DAIMION STAFFORD**, DB, 6-1, 210, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Chaffey CC)
- ★★★★ **BUBBA STARLING**, QB, 6-4, 193, Gardner, Kan. (Gardner Edgerton)
- ★★★★ **ZACH STERUP**, OL, 6-8, 260, Hastings, Neb. (St. Cecilia)
- ★★★★ **JAMAL TURNER**, QB, 6-1, 173, Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)
- ★★★ **KEVIN WILLIAMS**, DT, 6-2, 275, Holland, Ohio (Springfield)

2011 Unofficial Offer List

James Adeyanju
DE, 6-2, 250
Chicago, Ill.

Jonathan Aiken
CB, 5-11, 185
Hollywood, Fla.

Tariq Allen
WR, 6-2, 186
Weston, Mass.

Antoine Arnold
WR, 6-3, 180
Temecula, Calif.

Darien Bryant
TE, 6-4, 215
Pickerington, Ohio

Jeremy Cash
S, 6-1, 185
Plantation, Fla.

Curt Evans
WR, 6-0, 173
Hollywood, Fla.

Christian French
Athlete, 6-6, 218
Cedar Rapids, IA

Aaron Green
RB, 5-10, 191
San Antonio, TX

Quentin Griffin
DE, 6-3, 230
Rayville, La.

Jalen Grimble
DE, 6-4, 255
Las Vegas, Nev.

Jesse Hayes
DE, 6-4, 230
Cincinnati, Ohio

Christian Heyward
DT, 6-2, 269
San Diego, Calif.

Cyrus Hobbi
OL, 6-4, 285
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Charles Jackson
CB, 5-11, 180
Klein, Texas

Mickey Johnson
DT, 6-1, 310
Covington, La.

Lake Koa-Kaiai
DE, 6-4, 250
Honolulu, Hawaii

Keith Lewis
LB, 6-0, 194
Lakeland, Fla.

Wayne Lyons
Safety, 6-0, 190
Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

***Dexter Moody**
LB, 6-2, 210
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC

Givens Mordi Price
OL, 6-4, 278
Houston, Texas

***Malcolm Moulton**
WR, 5-11, 185
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC

Patrick Onwuasor
WR, 6-2, 190
Inglewood, Calif.

Todd Peat, Jr.
DT, 6-3, 300
Tempe, Ariz.

Miles Shuler
WR, 5-11, 173
Long Branch, NJ

Joel Willis
Athlete, 5-10, 180
Garden Grove, CA

DeVante Wilson
DE, 6-4, 230
Corona, Calif.

** Junior College prospect*

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DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Two-way street when considering soft commits

RECRUITING CONSISTENTLY has a lot of double-edged themes.

For instance, the idea of the soft commit is a hot-button issue among fans – and rightfully so, considering it can be a good thing or a bad thing for one's school.

On the one hand, no Husker fan wants to see a star recruit give a pledge to Nebraska only to back out of it down the home stretch towards Signing Day and end up on the signing list of another program.

If the fans take it hard, imagine what it's like for the coaches who have put in the work to recruit that player. I guess it's kind of like running on the field thinking you've won the Big 12 Championship only to have 1 second put back on the clock.

That was probably cruel to bring up an old wound for the Husker faithful, but I just wanted to be clear.

If you go back and look at soft commits who started out as Big Red commits but ended up elsewhere, several went on to have or are having successful careers. Whether we want to talk about Missouri quarterback Blaine Gabbert, former Kansas State quarterback and current NFL quarterback Josh Freeman, or even current Cincinnati wide receiver D.J. Woods, some continue to sting Nebraska fans on Saturdays.

Of course, like with anything in recruiting, there are two sides to the story.

One side is that there are several players who didn't end up at Nebraska but also didn't reach great heights of success at other programs.

Then it goes without saying that Nebraska has been the benefactor to a de-commitment.

Just look at last year as an example. The Huskers added two 4-star prospects in quarterback Brion Carnes and running back Braylon Heard. Carnes defected from his pledge to South Florida and Heard chose the Huskers after committing to West Virginia. Jermarcus Hardrick was an LSU commitment out of Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College and a trip to Lincoln caused him to switch to the Big Red.

On one hand, some fans will harshly criticize Husker commits who take visits and "look around." But, the street moves both ways and fans always love to see other schools' commits show up on the sidelines in Lincoln for a game.

This year is a perfect example.

Husker quarterback Jamal Turner went to Texas Tech to support his friend Eric Stephens when the Red Raiders hosted Texas. He was up-front this entire year with the Nebraska coaching staff about where and why he was taking trips. He even wanted to be at Texas A&M when the Huskers travel to College Station later this fall – of course, to support his future team.

Turner is probably the last commit in this year's class fans need to be worried about in terms of switching.

On the flip side, Nebraska just hosted two official visitors for the South Dakota State game and both were already committed elsewhere.

Florida tight end commit A.C. Leonard was looking around after giving his pledge to the Gators. Givens Mordi Price, an offensive line target from Alief Taylor in Houston, gave a summertime commitment to Rice.

Still the Husker coaches made the push and got them in for a visit.

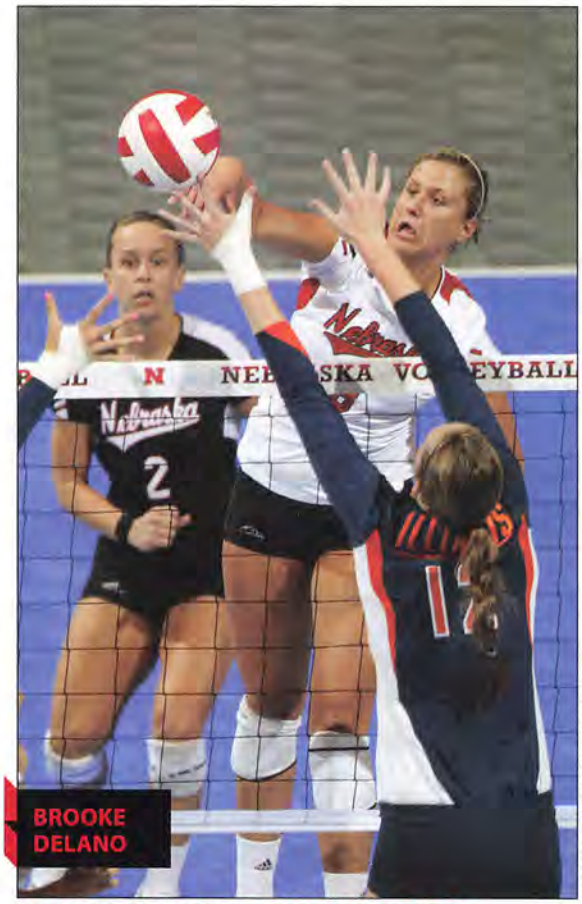
All is fair in recruiting when it comes to commits, right?

Nebraska was working to get Jeremy Cash in for a visit despite his commitment to Ohio State. In the end, Cash did choose to stay solid with OSU, but the visit was certainly in the works for a while.

It goes both ways and right now, it's fair to say Nebraska is on the right end of things when commits take trips. **N**

Delano personality helps lead team

A second-team All-American, Delano making case for first-team honors in 2010 | BOB HAMAR



BROOKE DELANO

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT BROOKE DELANO IS ALL ABOUT, JUST ASK JOHN COOK ABOUT THE TRIP TO Hawaii two years ago.

The Husker volleyball team went to the islands on a spring trip. Five minutes after arriving at the beach, Delano was out there on a paddle board.

"She befriended the guy on the paddle board and he showed her how to do it," Cook said."Everywhere we go, there are just hoards of people around her. She just has a gift for people. I think that transfers over with our team. Our kids really connect with her and like her. Brooke can say anything. She speaks from the heart. It's never premeditated. It's never complicated. Our kids love her and that's why they voted her captain."

If you want to know what Delano is all about, ask Cook about the Kansas State match in 2008. That's when then-sophomores Tara Mueller and Kayla Banwarth were suspended for a match, forcing Delano to play outside hitter. She responded with seven kills, but more importantly had 16 digs while playing all six rotations.

"That was the highlight of my career," Delano said. "I was also playing outside at the time, too. That was kind of a different twist."

Cook wasn't surprised.

"That's Brooke. She competes," Cook said. "I think the bigger the match, the better she competes, but again she had to be feeling good physically, emotionally, academically which allows her to be successful."

Delano plays one rotation as a server in the back row this season for the Huskers, and it's a role she relishes.

"I love playing in the back row," Delano said. "I might not be the best, but I love getting in there and serving. It's a totally different part of the game. It's good to be part of it."

Delano seems to be getting better and better as the Big 12 Conference season goes on. Eight matches into conference play, she was hitting a



BALANCED OFFENSE

Balance is what Cook was looking for with the 6-2 offense, and that's just what he's gotten. Midway through the season, Lindsey Licht was leading the Huskers with 3.07 kills per set, but Brooke Delano, Morgan Broekhuis, Hannah Werth, Tara Mueller and Gina Mancuso were all averaging between two and three kills per set.

With the exception of Florida and Nebraska, most of the other top teams in the nation have been relying on one big hitter to carry the load.

"What I like about our team right now is we're so balanced," Cook said. "Our kids aren't wearing down. They're not getting 70 swings a night. I think that could be a real strength for us."

RATINGS GAME

The Huskers were rated No. 3 in the nation in the Oct. 11 AVCA Division I ratings behind No. 1 Florida and Stanford. John Cook isn't so concerned about the ratings. He's more concerned about where the Huskers end up going for a regional.

The regional sites this year are Austin, Texas; Dayton, Ohio; Seattle and University Park, Penn.

"It's a crap shoot where you end up, and you want to get a good draw," Cook said. "Obviously there are some places we'd rather go play if we can get to a regional. That's really what matters.

"So that's what I look at. I look at the RPI. I think we're two or three in all those. That shows we've played a tough schedule and the teams we're playing are good."

2010 Schedule

RUNZA/AVCA SHOWCASE			
SAT, AUG 28	KENTUCKY	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	W, 3-0
SUN, AUG 29	FLORIDA	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	L, 2-3
TUE, AUG 31	CREIGHTON	OMAHA, NEB.	W, 3-0
BYU TOURNAMENT			
FRI, SEP 3	BYU	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 4	CAL POLY	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 4	IDAHO STATE	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0
AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE			
THU, SEP 9	DAYTON	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
FRI, SEP 10	W. MICHIGAN	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 11	ILLINOIS	DEVANEY	W, 3-2
BIG 12 CONFERENCE PLAY			
WED, SEP 15	IOWA STATE *	AMES, IOWA	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 18	COLORADO *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
WED, SEP 22	KANSAS *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 25	BAYLOR *	WACO, TEXAS	W, 3-0
WED, SEP 29	OKLAHOMA *	NORMAN, OKLA.	W, 3-1
SAT, OCT 2	TEXAS *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-1
WED, OCT 6	MISSOURI *	COLUMBIA, MO.	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 9	TEXAS A&M *	NU COLISEUM	W, 3-0
SAT, OCT 16	KANSAS STATE *	MANHATTAN, KAN.	7 P.M.
WED, OCT 20	TEXAS TECH *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 23	MISSOURI *	NU COLISEUM	TBA
WED, OCT 27	TEXAS *	AUSTIN, TEXAS	8 P.M.
SAT, OCT 30	IOWA STATE *	NU COLISEUM	TBA
WED, NOV 3	KANSAS *	LAWRENCE, KAN.	6:30 P.M.
SAT, NOV 6	TEXAS TECH *	LUBBOCK, TEXAS	6:30 P.M.
WED, NOV 10	KANSAS STATE *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 13	COLORADO *	BOULDER, COLO.	TBA
WED, NOV 17	OKLAHOMA *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
WED, NOV 24	BAYLOR *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 27	TEXAS A&M *	COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS	TBA
NCAA TOURNAMENT			
FRI, DEC 3-4	NCAA FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS		TBA
FRI, DEC 10-11	NCAA REGIONALS	TBA	TBA
THU, DEC 16	NCAA SEMIFINALS	KANSAS CITY, MO.	TBA
SAT, DEC 18	NATIONAL TITLE	KANSAS CITY, MO.	TBA

* BIG 12 CONFERENCE GAME



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

robust .439 while leading the Huskers in blocks (1.52 per set).

On Oct. 6 against Missouri, Delano had 14 kills on .875 hitting with a team-high six blocks.

She followed that with eight kills and seven blocks in a sweep of Texas A&M.

Delano, a second-team AVCA All-American last season, looks like she is making a case to be a first-teamer this season. Cook saw that potential when the Huskers traveled to China early this summer.

"We always knew Brooke was a great athlete," Cook said. "She's also developed into a really good blocker, and Brooke is a great competitor. You can see that when she goes back to serve. She'll stand in there and dig balls. She serves really tough. Brooke has done a great job. We saw this in China. I knew she would have a chance to be a special player."

"I might not be the best, but I love getting in there and serving," Delano said.

But it certainly wasn't easy for Delano, a stand-out prep player at Bellevue West, to get to this position. Cook said Delano struggled with balancing academics and athletics during her redshirt season in 2007.

Eventually, he had a heart-to-heart talk with Delano.

"Brooke went from barely being in this program two years ago, on the verge of being somewhere else, to making the decision that she wanted to take advantage of this opportunity," Cook said. "Brooke got squared away academically. She got squared away off the court so that part was going really well."

Delano was also relatively inexperienced as a volleyball player coming out of Bellevue West where she was also a standout in basketball. She could have gone to a Division I school to play basketball, but elected to join Cook's volleyball program instead.

"Coming in, volleyball was new to me," Delano said. "I mean, I played in high school, but I feel like I'm still learning the game. I'm working on my defense. That's been a focus for me. I still feel like I'm learning and I have a long way to go."

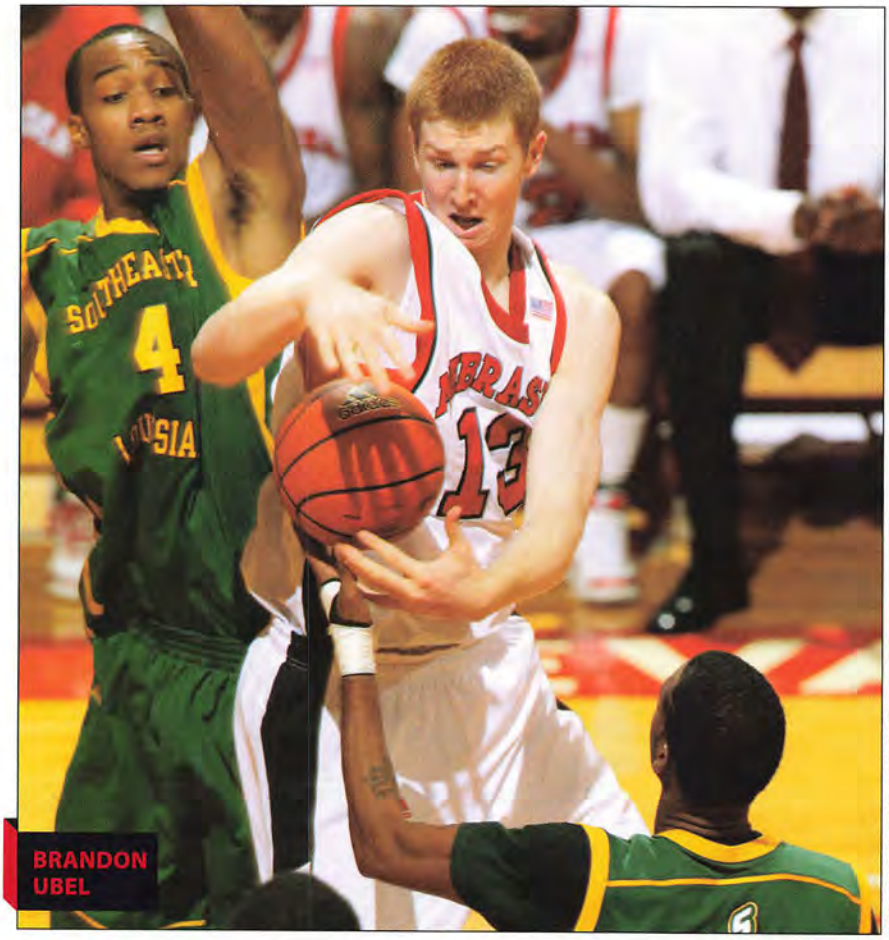
Delano has played all three front-row positions during her career at Nebraska. As a freshman she played right side, middle and a little outside too. Now she is a middle blocker and glad to be there.

"I love the middle," Delano said. "You're quick and you have to be loud and talking all the time. I love to be quick. Just being everywhere on the court is great. You're getting touches on the ball and you're kind of everywhere. It's cool."

Around THE Horn

I BRIAN ROSENTHAL

THIS ISSUE MEN'S BASKETBALL BASEBALL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SOCCER



BRANDON UBEL

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

UBEL MAKES BIG LEAP IN OFFSEASON

Under a perfect scenario, Brandon Ubel would've redshirted last season for Doc Sadler.

Of course, the 2009-10 season was anything but perfect for the Nebraska men's basketball team. And the Huskers' troubles began long before they finished 15-18 overall, and 2-14 in the Big 12 Conference.

A month before practice began, center Christopher Niemann suffered a season-ending ACL injury. That thrust Ubel – who was only 17 when school began – into the lineup.

Ubel, a 6-foot-10 forward from Overland Park, Kan., says he has no regrets of needing to forgo a redshirt, only many learning moments to look back upon.

"There were some points during the season it was frustrating – just losing, but also I didn't play as well as I thought I could've," Ubel said. "But

WOMEN'S GOLF

Kayla Knopik produced a career-best three-round total of 229 by firing a season-best 74 to lead Nebraska in the final round of the Johnie Imes Invitational in Columbia, Mo.

Knopik, a junior from Papillion, led the Huskers at the 15-team tournament by tying for 36th with a three-round total of 229, one shot better than her previous career-best tournament total of 230 that she produced last season at the BYU Entrada Classic.

Knopik, who opened the season with eight consecutive rounds better than 80, had rounds of 78, 77 and 74 on the par-72, 6,204-yard layout at The Club at Old Hawthorne.

SOCCER

Nebraska's rally from a 2-0 deficit against Missouri helped the Huskers match their win total from last season (11) and maintain second place in the Big 12 standings entering the final two weeks of the regular season.

The Huskers scored four times in the second half, marking their biggest come-from-behind win since Aug. 29, 2004 when they overcame the same deficit to defeat Creighton 4-2.

that comes with it. It was a freshman year. In the end, it will help me out, just knowing all the frustrations that went with it so I can work a little bit harder so I won't let that happen again."

That was the main incentive behind Ubel's off-season work with basketball strength coach Rusty Ruffcorn. Ubel gained 20 pounds in the off-season and increased his vertical jump by 3 ½ inches.

"Definitely my upper body is a lot stronger than it was last year," said Ubel, now at 239 pounds. "That's one thing I tried to focus on a lot."

More important than jumping higher, Ubel said, is how quickly he's jumping.

"Just being able to jump quicker, get a better second jump, stronger, so nobody's pushing me out of position on a rebound, nobody's pushing me out of position on posting," he said.

Ubel hopes the extra time in the weight room will pay off when he's facing the big men of the Big 12 Conference. Last year, that meant facing guys like Ekpe Udoh, Cole Aldrich, Craig Brackins and Damion James – all taken in the first round of the NBA Draft.

"It's tiring, and it wears on you," Ubel said. "That's one thing I wanted to focus on was to get a lot stronger, so that I was wearing them down instead of the other way around."

COACHES TAB MEN 10TH

The Nebraska men's basketball team was picked to finish 10th in its final year of competition in the Big 12 Conference, according to the annual pre-season poll of league coaches.

Nebraska, though, has finished ahead of the coaches' projections in three of the past four years.

Ten letterwinners return from last season, including four players who started at least 15 games.

Kansas State was picked to win the league for the first time in Big 12 history, and Kansas was second.

WOMEN PICKED SEVENTH

Big 12 women's basketball coaches apparently think Nebraska's undefeated roll through the league last season was a one-hit wonder.

The Huskers, who won the Big 12 title last season with a 16-0 record, were picked to finish seventh in the annual coaches' pre-season poll.

But Nebraska has finished higher than its pre-season pick six times in eight seasons under coach Connie Yori, and never below its pre-season pick.

The Huskers return two starters – senior Dominique Kelly and sophomore Lindsey Moore – from last season's team that finished 32-2 and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

Baylor, Texas A&M, Oklahoma and Texas were the top four teams picked by coaches.

ANDERSON JOINS DAD

The son of Nebraska baseball coach Mike



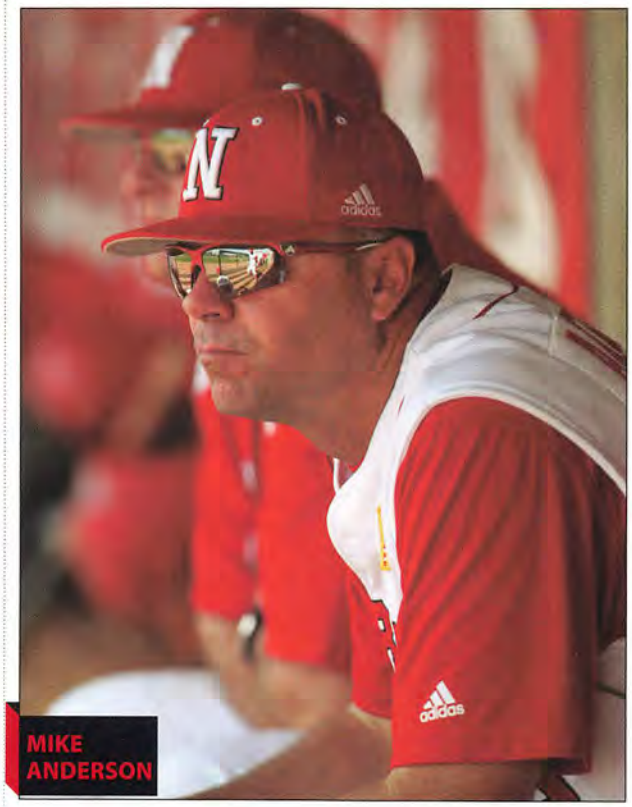
CONNIE YORI

Anderson will join his father on the Huskers' team.

Taylor Anderson, a senior shortstop at Lincoln (Neb.) Southwest High, will play baseball at Nebraska beginning in 2012. Mike Anderson joined Nebraska's staff in 1994 and has been head coach since 2002.

"I have a very good comfort level in the program and the players," Taylor Anderson said. "I want to play baseball for my dad. But the main thing is that I want to play for Nebraska, the tradition of Nebraska and the baseball program there."

Anderson, a switch-hitter, hit a combined .400 for Southwest last spring and during American Legion play in the summer. During the summer, he was among the state leaders in doubles (10), triples (four) and home runs (seven).


MIKE ANDERSON

Other in-state Nebraska recruits are seniors Blake Headley of Millard South and Kyle Kubat of Creighton Prep.

SWIMMING

Nebraska opened the women's swimming season in Champaign, Ill., with a 185.5-109.5 loss to Illinois. Ariel Weech won the 50-yard freestyle after Illinois won the first six events of the day.

Kaitlan Walker won the 3-meter dive and Shannon Guy won the 100-yard butterfly back-to-back in the 13th and 14th events.

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96
88
80



FROM THE ARCHIVES

TO THE HOUSE, ALMOST

Rod Smith (88) didn't quite get into the end zone on this 60-yard punt return against Kansas State in 1986. He made it to the Wildcats' 4-yard line. A little over an inch of snow fell on Memorial Stadium that day. Groundskeeper Bill Shepard got out the tractor and cleared the field at halftime. Smith, a wide receiver, led the nation in punt returns in 1986, averaging a school-record 18.9 yards on 12 returns. However, in order to meet the minimum requirement for inclusion in official NCAA statistics two returns for zero yards had to be added to his total, giving him an average of 16.2 yards, still 1 yard better than the second-place finisher. A month earlier, Smith returned a punt against Oklahoma State 63 yards for a touchdown. Also in the photo are Husker juniors Jeff Jamrog (80) and Jeff Tomjack (11).

PHOTO BY RICHARD VOGES


FRED DUDA

GAMES**REMEMBERED**

WAITING TO EXHALE

Undefeated Huskers need full 60 minutes to survive battle against 1-8 Cowboys

NEBRASKA was 8-0, Oklahoma State 1-7. But the Cornhuskers couldn't exhale in relief until the final gun, literally. On the last play of the game, senior cornerback Bill Johnson tackled Oklahoma State fullback Walt Garrison at the Nebraska 5-yard line, after a 17-yard run.

The Cowboys had taken a 17-14 lead with 5:19 remaining, but Nebraska responded with a 15-play, 75-yard drive to a touchdown, by fullback Pete Tatman with just 38 seconds on the clock.

Quarterback Fred Duda stayed in the game to direct the drive, even though he had completed 1-of-9 passes. He completed two during the drive, the first to halfback Harry Wilson at mid-field on a third-down-and-7, the second to split end Dennis Richnafsky on the next play for 10 yards.

Coach Bob Devaney considered replacing Duda with Bob Churchich for the final series, but Duda was the better runner and he (Devaney) thought Nebraska could move the ball on the ground.

Halfback Ron Kirkland led the Huskers in rushing with 123 yards and the first two touchdowns on 19 carries, while Wilson ran for 95 yards on 16 carries – including three of the last five.

Garrison finished with 121 yards on 19 carries. But he came up 5 yards short of the upset, thanks to Johnson, who awarded the game ball in the Husker locker room afterward for his saving tackle.

BOB DEVANEY: "I knew that with the two weeks they had to get ready for us that they would be tough."

(3) NEBRASKA 21, OKLAHOMA STATE 17

Nov. 13, 1965 • Stillwater, Okla.

Nebraska	0	7	7	7	--	21
Oklahoma State	7	0	0	10	--	17

(OS) Larry Elliott 1 run (Charles Durkee kick)
(N) Ron Kirkland 2 run (Larry Wachholtz kick)
(N) Kirkland 2 run (Wachholtz kick)
(OS) Durkee 45 field goal
(OS) Glenn Baxter 3 run (Durkee kick)
(N) Pete Tatman 2 run (Wachholtz kick)
Attendance: 29,901

DO YOU REMEMBER?

- *Larry Wachholtz kicked three extra points to bring his season's total to a school-record 33. The previous record of 30 was set by Owen Frank in 1910. Frank still holds the school single-game record. He kicked 17 of his 30 in a 119-0 victory against Haskell.*
- *Bill Johnson came to Nebraska as a walk-on. His dad farmed and raised cattle near Stanton, Neb., and was a member of the Cornhuskers' Beef Club, which supplied beef for the training table.*
- *Bob Devaney and defensive line coach George Kelly consoled Oklahoma State's Walt Garrison afterward. Devaney called Garrison "the best fullback I've ever seen in the Big Eight."*
- *After the game, Nebraska officially accepted a bid to play Alabama in the Orange Bowl.*


BILL JOHNSON

CROSSWORD &TRIVIA

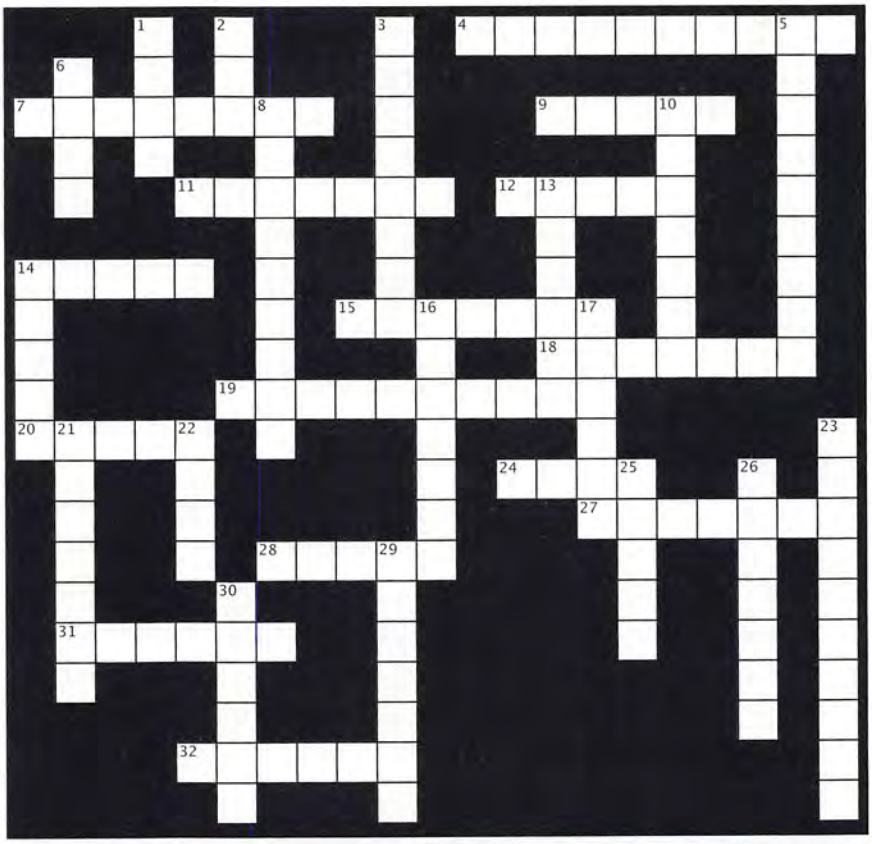
ACROSS

4. Taylor Martinez's home state
7. Special teams coordinator
9. Wore retired No. 64
11. Ex-Husker running back now with Green Bay Packers
12. Wears No. 73
14. Oklahoma State head coach
15. Oklahoma State booster stadium is named after
18. Assistant head coach
19. Oklahoma State campus location
20. Wears No. 13
24. Had career-long 79-yard touchdown reception vs. Kansas State
27. 1988 Heisman Trophy winner
28. Cody Green's home state
31. Head strength coach
32. Associate head coach

DOWN

1. Number of Taylor Martinez touchdowns vs. Kansas State
2. 2009 Lombardi Award winner
3. Oct. 30 opponent
5. Nov. 6 opponent
6. Intercepted pass vs. Kansas State
8. Ex-Husker offensive lineman now with Miami Dolphins
10. 1997 Lombardi Award winner
13. Oklahoma State school color
14. Wears No. 7 (defense)
16. Oklahoma State nickname
17. Wears No. 71
21. Longtime defensive coordinator
22. Rushed for 110 yards vs. Kansas State
23. Oklahoma State mascot
25. Leading tackler vs. Kansas State
26. Longtime offensive line coach
29. Prince Amukamara's home state
30. Oklahoma State's bowl game after 2009 season

Answers will appear in the Oct. 30 issue



HUSKERNUTZ



YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY, WHEN YOU VISIT A BAR IN ANOTHER STATE, THEY GET ALL UPTIGHT ABOUT YOU SWITCHING THE TV OVER TO THE HUSKER GAME.



BRAIN BUSTER

Linebacker Barrett Ruud set the school single-season record for tackles as a junior in 2003 with 149. Another Husker linebacker also was credited with more than 100 tackles that season. He led the team with 83 unassisted tackles, in fact. Can you name the other linebacker?

Answer will appear in our next issue

OCT. 16 ANSWER: Rob and Jon Zatechka

OCTOBER 16 SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

No magic needed in decisive Texas win

IF YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH, you've seen this before, though it used to happen late in the season, when Nebraska and Oklahoma would renew their annual Big Eight rivalry.

The Cornhusker offense would be rolling along, leading the nation in rushing offense maybe, or at least ranking near the top. And then the Sooners would slow down that running game.

It was a part of what Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer termed "Sooner Magic." Defensively, it wasn't achieved with smoke and mirrors, however, but rather with speed and athleticism.

That's how Texas stopped the Huskers. That's how, in just over 3 hours on an otherwise pleasant mid-October afternoon, the Longhorns made Nebraska's offense appear as if it were the same impotent attack they encountered in the Big 12 Championship game last December.

It was a shocking transformation. Nebraska, which went into the game ranked seventh nationally in total offense and second in rushing offense, managed 202 total yards, 125 of them rushing.

Taylor Martinez, who had averaged 10.8 yards per carry, was replaced late in the third quarter, after averaging 1.6 yards on 13 carries. And one of those carries gained 14 yards.

But never mind the numbers.

"Football comes down to execution. It comes down to fundamentals," Cornhusker coach Bo Pelini said. "It comes down to technique. It comes down to playing the right way. We didn't play the right way today, and we didn't get it done. We got beat."

From the outside, Nebraska was beginning to look unbeatable, with a schedule that set up nicely. The Huskers had moved up to No. 4 and No. 5 in the major polls, and Martinez was being mentioned as a Heisman Trophy candidate. Even so, "I saw signs of this all year," said Pelini.

"We're not the finished product; I've said it all along. People around here want to make us out to be the '85 Bears. We're not there yet. We're getting there. We've got to improve in a lot of areas."

The Huskers fumbled five times, losing one. They were penalized 10 times for 94 yards. And their wide receivers dropped enough passes to have changed the course of the game.

Nebraska went into the game averaging 41.6 points and managed just 13. And its only touchdown came on Eric Hagg's 95-yard return of a pooch punt with 3:02 remaining.

How's that for some defensive magic?

We should have seen this coming, of course, not the loss necessarily but the defensive test Nebraska faced, though that might have been obscured, to some degree, by two Texas losses.

After all, one of those losses was against UCLA at home, 34-12 no less. And UCLA had lost to Kansas State. And the Huskers had hammered Kansas State, yada, yada, yada.

Comparative scores can sometimes divert attention, like a magician's sleight of hand. But the fact is, the Longhorns didn't get slower on defense because of the two losses.

So instead of payback for the frustration of the Big 12 Championship game, Nebraska endured its ninth loss to Texas in 10 games since the formation of the conference, which the Huskers will be leaving after this season. Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe had to be smiling at the final gun.

Still, the regular season is only half over. "I told our football team we still have everything out in front of us we want to do," Pelini said. "Our first goal is to win the Big 12. It's still out there for us to do. But we're not going to do that unless we look in the mirror like men and take responsibility for what happened out on that field today and get better because of it."

Do you believe in magic? Pelini believes in execution and fundamentals.

"I'm a realist," he said.

And reality was reflected on the scoreboard: Texas 20, Nebraska 13.

It wasn't an illusion. N


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Coming Soon
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